

AN



**BRIGHTER  
CITIZENS**

John Cormack

Edinburgh

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AN  
A B C  
FOR  
BRIGHTER CITIZENS

*A Short Practical Course in Citizenship  
Simply presented for Schools and  
Discussion Groups*

BY  
JAMES URQUHART, M.A., DIP.ED.

EDINBURGH  
JOHN CORMACK  
55 GEORGE IV BRIDGE

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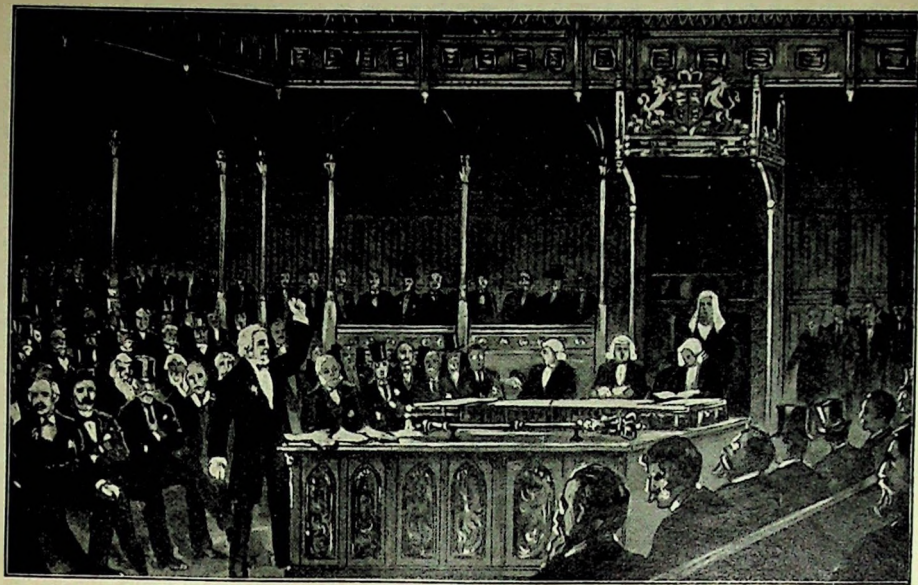
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AN ARTIST'S IMPRESSION OF A GREAT PARLIAMENTARIAN AND DEBATER:  
MR GLADSTONE ADDRESSING THE HOUSE OF COMMONS

# BRIGHTER CITIZENS

## SECTION I

### WE ARE A DEBATING SOCIETY

WHERE people are free to think and speak, differences of opinion are found to exist. Seldom do we all see events in exactly the same light, and seldom do we all want to do exactly as our neighbours. In countries called Democracies it is customary to find out and to do those things which most people desire. The smaller group of people (or Minority) accepts the decisions of the larger group (or Majority). The majority "rules." That—very briefly—is how things are done in Parliament and in local Councils; that also is how matters are settled in Debating Societies, Committee Meetings and similar assemblies.

To see how "Majority rule" works let us imagine that we are members of a School Debating Society which is having its weekly meeting. We shall need a pupil to act as Chairman and another as Secretary. Before the debate begins the four speakers will take their places as indicated in Diagram 1.

## BRIGHTER CITIZENS

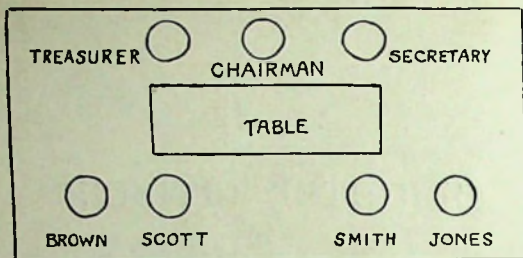


DIAGRAM 1.—OFFICE-BEARERS AND CHIEF SPEAKERS

### A DEBATE

#### CHARACTERS

*Chairman*, Mr MacDonald; *The Secretary*; *The Treasurer* (to be elected).

*Principal speakers*: Mr Scott and Mr Brown for Affirmative: Mr Smith and Miss Jones for Negative.

*Minor parts*: Mr Edgar, Miss Hodge, Mr Kimm, Mr Dickson, Mr Wilson.

**CHAIRMAN** (*risés and uses his gavel to call for order*): I call upon the Secretary to read the Minutes of the last Meeting of our School Debating Society.

**SECRETARY** (*reads from Minute Book*): Minutes of the Meeting of the School Debating Society held on Friday, 2nd November 19—, at 4.15 P.M. Mr MacDonald, President, occupied the chair. The Minutes of the previous meeting were read and



*British Council*

A "CLUB PARLIAMENT" FOR YOUNG PEOPLE: A DEBATE  
IN PROGRESS

adopted. A motion to hold a Debating Society Social and Dance, moved by Mr Gair and seconded by Miss Reid, was unanimously accepted. A small Committee, consisting of the office-bearers, Miss Douglas and Messrs Maxwell and Scott, was appointed to make all arrangements. The subject of debate was "That pupils be paid for attending school." Messrs Wallace and Gray spoke for the Affirmative, and Miss Johnston and Mr Edgar for the Negative. An interesting discussion followed. On the matter being put to the vote the Affirmative was defeated by 23 votes to 15.

This was all the business.



## BRIGHTER CITIZENS

CHAIRMAN: You have heard the minutes of our last meeting. Is anyone prepared to move their adoption?

MR SMITH: I move the adoption of the minutes.

MR SCOTT: I second that.

CHAIRMAN (*after brief pause*): I declare the minutes carried.

*(The Chairman takes the Minute Book and appends his signature under that of the Secretary. The Chairman now examines the Agenda.)*

### AGENDA

1. Minutes of previous meeting.
2. Appointment of New Treasurer.
3. Debate.
4. Intimate date of next Meeting and subject of debate.

The next item on the Agenda is the filling of the vacancy caused by the resignation of the Treasurer, Mr Bell. As you are aware he left school last week. We are all deeply indebted to him for the careful way in which he attended for the last two years to the financial affairs of our Society. (*Short pause.*) I invite nominations for the post of Treasurer.

MR EDGAR: I beg to nominate Mr Brown.

MISS HODGE: I beg to second that.

MR KIMM: I beg to nominate Mr Dickson.

## WE ARE A DEBATING SOCIETY

MR DICKSON: I am sorry, Mr Chairman, but I shall have to decline. I beg, however, to propose the name of Miss Jones.

MR WILSON: I beg to second that.

CHAIRMAN (*after pausing and deciding that there are no more nominations*): We have two nominations for the Treasurership, Mr Brown and Miss Jones. Those voting for Mr Brown please show hands. (*Secretary counts votes and writes down number.*) Those voting for Miss Jones please show hands. (*Secretary again counts and gives figures to the Chairman, who announces the result. The new Treasurer takes up his position as in Diagram 1.*)

Now we come to the principal item on the Agenda. Our School Debating Society is fortunate to have four of its most talented members leading the discussion of a matter of great interest to all of us. The terms of the debate are: "That there should be a paddling pond and other amusements in the school playground." Mr Scott and Mr Brown will speak in favour of the motion, and Mr Smith and Miss Jones against it. I call upon Mr Scott to open the debate.

MR SCOTT: Mr Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen. Certainly there should be a paddling pond in the school playground. I have given the problem much consideration and am of opinion that a pond about 50 yards long, and roughly 20 yards in width, could easily be laid out at the southern end of the school. The depth of the pond would be about

## BRIGHTER CITIZENS



DEVELOPING ROAD SENSE. OLDER PUPILS GUIDE YOUNG PUPILS ACROSS A BUSY STREET. THIS PICTURE COMES FROM THE U.S.A.

two feet, deep enough for one to paddle a small canoe. In addition, Mr Chairman, I propose that roundabouts, swings, and sliding chutes should be erected elsewhere. Variety is the spice of life and I think an attempt should be made to cater for all tastes. After a vigorous and enjoyable interval in the playground it is easy to imagine with what zest we would return to our class-work. The old Greek ideal in education was "A healthy mind in a healthy body": I think the scheme outlined would help towards reaching that ideal.

I hear some asking: "But what about the cost?"

## WE ARE A DEBATING SOCIETY

Well, if the Education Committee can find money to build up-to-date schools it can also find money to build modern playgrounds.

Our Headmaster occasionally reminds us about being punctual for school. If the playground were equipped in the manner I have suggested I am certain that pupils would never fail to be here in good time.

For these few reasons, Mr Chairman, I beg formally to move: "That there should be a paddling pond and other amusements in the school playground."

CHAIRMAN: I now call on Mr Smith to move the Direct Negative.

MR SMITH: Mr Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen. I feel it is my duty to oppose this scheme, which would play ducks and drakes with the school playground. The scheme is so absurd I hardly know where to begin with my criticisms. So as not to bore you I shall mention only five of my main objections.

Firstly: How many of our parents would feel happy if they knew their children were playing around a paddling pool? It is possible, you know, for a person to drown in less than two feet of water.

Secondly: How are pupils going to get their feet dried? Where are the towels to come from?

Thirdly: The pool might appeal to pupils on warm days. What use would be made of it on cold



## BRIGHTER CITIZENS

wet days? It would be as deserted as a beach in the bleakest days of winter.

Fourthly: The proposed pond would cover a considerable area. This leaves very little room for any other recreation. A policeman would be needed to deal with the squabbles that would be sure to arise. Haven't our teachers to suffer enough already? Is it fair to ask them to live within earshot of the pandemonium that would be certain to exist in this fun-fair playground?

Fifthly, and to conclude, Mr Chairman, there remains the question of expense. Mr Scott has said that the Education Committee would provide the money. But where does the Education Committee get the money? Out of the pockets of the ratepayers and the taxpayers, of course. In other words, that means out of the pockets of our parents. Haven't our fathers and mothers enough to pay for at present?

The motion is ridiculous, Mr Chairman, and I have the greatest pleasure in moving that it be rejected.

CHAIRMAN: You have heard Mr Smith move the Direct Negative. I now call on Mr Brown to second the Affirmative.

MR BROWN: Mr Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen. What is a school playground for? To be played in, of course! The plan outlined by Mr Scott would lead to increased activity and pleasure for all the pupils. Let us enjoy our school life to the full.



*Crown Copyright*

THE PUPILS' HOMES ARE FAR FROM THE SCHOOL. THE BUS  
COLLECTS THEM IN THE MORNING AND TAKES THEM HOME  
AFTER SCHOOL HOURS

"All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy." The mover of the Direct Negative would do well to ponder the wisdom of that proverb. If the playgrounds were remodelled on the lines suggested, new problems would certainly arise. However, that does not condemn the scheme in the least. We learn by making mistakes; such is the way of life.

Mr Smith complains that the proposed changes in the playground would cost money; there is no doubt about that. But the money would be well spent!

## BRIGHTER CITIZENS

Moreover, it would give employment, and what greater fear have our parents got than unemployment? Mr Chairman, I have much pleasure in seconding the motion.

CHAIRMAN: Miss Jones will second the Direct Negative.

MISS JONES: Mr Chairman and Fellow-Members. When first I heard the terms of Mr Scott's motion I felt inclined to agree that his plans would do a lot to brighten life in the playground. But after I had given the proposals mature thought I realised how foolish the scheme is. If the playground were to be made as attractive as Mr Scott would like to have it I foresee that we, the pupils, would have to stand aside and watch the teachers disporting themselves. You can well imagine what would happen to the swings and roundabouts if teachers began to play on them. Members of the staff might even go out on rafts and canoes on the pond and be drowned!

No! No! I think we should leave well alone. The plans Mr Scott proposes would create more problems than they would solve, and for that reason I ask you, Ladies and Gentlemen, to vote for the Direct Negative, which I have the honour to second.

CHAIRMAN: You have now heard a statement of the case for and against the motion. The subject seems to be a fairly controversial one; I invite questions and discussion.

## WE ARE A DEBATING SOCIETY

### SOMETHING TO DO:

Try to find an argument for or against the motion. Ask a question.

(See how long you can keep this part of the meeting going on your own.)

CHAIRMAN: Now that we have heard the pros and cons so fully discussed, I shall proceed to take the vote.

Those voting for the Direct Negative show hands.  
(*Secretary counts votes.*)

Those voting for the Motion now show hands.  
(*Secretary counts votes.*)

I declare the Motion carried/defeated by — votes to —.

Our next debate will take place in a week's time. The subject of debate will be: "That corporal punishment should be abolished."

Thank you, Ladies and Gentlemen, that is all the business.

### SOMETHING TO DO:

1. Prepare the minutes of this meeting.
2. What points have impressed you about the way a meeting is conducted?
3. To whom did the speakers address their remarks?
4. Give short definitions of: Agenda; Committee; Office-bearers; Minutes; Motion; Direct negative; Nomination; Pros and cons; Gavel; Corporal punishment.



## SECTION II

### WE HOLD A WARD MEETING

**T**HE affairs of a town are generally looked after by a Town or City Council. A Town Council may care for its citizens by providing them with gas, electricity and water, by building houses, by running tramcars and buses, by constructing roads, by maintaining law and order, by attending to public health, and to other matters affecting the

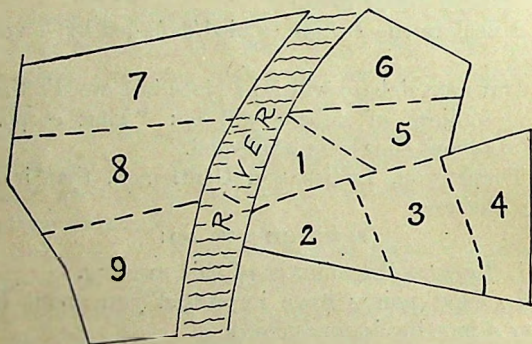


DIAGRAM 2.—TOWN OF SCOTSBY, SHOWING WARDS

welfare of the community. A Town Council consists of persons who have been chosen by the citizens to represent them. Having been elected, a Councillor normally serves for a period of three years.

## WE HOLD A WARD MEETING



*British Council*

THE MAYOR (ENGLAND): THE PROVOST (SCOTLAND)

Towns are divided into Wards, or areas which contain roughly the same number of voters. If each Ward in "Scotsby" is represented by three Councillors, then Scotsby Town Council will have twenty-seven members. The Council is presided over by a Provost (in England by a Mayor) elected by the other Councillors. In cities the title is Lord Provost (or Lord Mayor).

Let us assume that we are citizens living in the First Ward, which is represented by Councillors

## BRIGHTER CITIZENS

Clark, Hill and Stewart. Mr Clark, the retiring Town Councillor, is keen to retain his seat on the Council and is seeking re-election. Two other candidates, however, Mrs Wilson and Mr Muir, are also keen to represent the First Ward. They have all been nominated as candidates.

A Public Meeting for First Ward electors is being held in the Town Hall on the eve of Polling Day; the Provost, who has been invited to act as Chairman, is accompanied on the platform by the three candidates.

### MEETING

#### CHARACTERS

*Chairman, Provost Bruce; the three Candidates:*  
Mr Clark, Mrs Wilson and Mr Muir; Mr Galbraith, and three anonymous members of audience.

PROVOST BRUCE: When I was approached by a few of the leading citizens of the First Ward to come along to this Ward Meeting to-night and act as Chairman I felt highly honoured. The electors of the First Ward of Scotsby by the intelligent interest they take in the affairs of the Burgh are a good example to ratepayers in the other Wards. As your Provost, and as one who has tried to serve the people of this town, I can truly say it is better to face public criticism than public apathy. Ours is a democratic country; the people choose

## WE HOLD A WARD MEETING

their rulers. If they get bad rulers, then they have but themselves to blame. Remember that when you choose a Councillor he is in office for three years, and you can't dismiss him until that time has elapsed.

What are the qualifications of a good Town Councillor? I would say that, in the first place, a Town Councillor must be eager to serve his fellow-townsmen—the community—without any desire for profit. Avoid the man who is looking for personal gain. To perform his duties as a Town Councillor an individual must possess common sense and sound judgment. I have always thought highly of Councillors who can state their case clearly and who are not afraid to voice their opinions through fear of unpopularity.

But, Ladies and Gentlemen, it is not I who have come here to address you. My duty is simply to conduct this meeting. I call on the first of the three candidates, Mr Clark, the retiring Councillor, to address the meeting.

MR CLARK: Provost Bruce, Ladies and Gentlemen. I am here to render to the electors of the First Ward an account of my stewardship as a Town Councillor during the past three years, and also to outline my policy for the future in the event of my being re-elected by you at the Poll to-morrow.

During my term of office as a member of the Town Council I have served on three of its main Committees, the Public Health Committee, the



Roads and Streets Committee and the Housing Committee. I have attended regularly, and have taken a lively part in all their transactions.

You may remember, Mr Chairman, when I offered myself for election here three years ago, I placed before the ratepayers the necessity for having a Swimming Pond in the town. At the First Meeting of the Town Council after my election I tabled a notice of motion on the subject. The motion to construct a Swimming Pond was carried at the Town Council meeting in the following December. I do not intend to weary you, Mr Chairman, with details. Sufficient it is to say that the Swimming Pond was opened a year ago, and has been, as you are all aware, a great success. As a result of my interest in the project I was from the beginning appointed chairman of the Swimming Pond Sub-committee of the Public Health Committee. I hope to have the privilege of continuing in that position if I am re-elected.

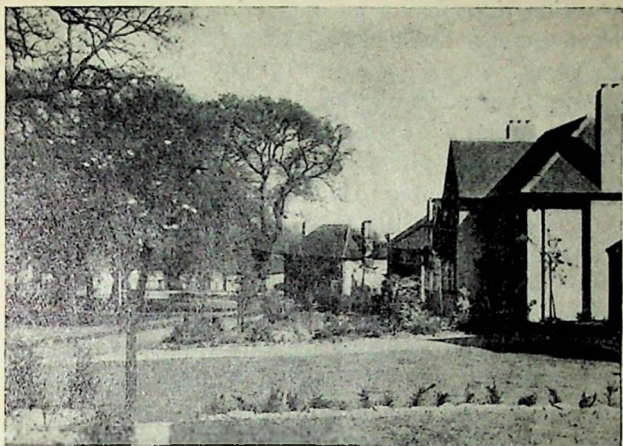
When I first became a member of the Town Council I was deputed to serve on the Housing Committee.

1ST MEMBER OF AUDIENCE (*interrupting*): And what have you done? There is still a scarcity of houses.

MR CLARK: I am well aware of the situation. But I can assure you that it has been my policy——

2ND MEMBER OF AUDIENCE (*interrupting*): We know your policy too well. You were responsible

## WE HOLD A WARD MEETING



*By courtesy of Bournville Village Trust*

A WELL-PLANNED RESIDENTIAL AREA — NATURAL SUR-  
ROUNDINGS AND HOUSES OF DIFFERING SIZES GROUPED  
TOGETHER CREATING A COMMUNITY RATHER THAN A  
UNIFORM SCHEME

for rejecting the plan to build two hundred steel houses last year.

MR CLARK: As I was saying, Mr Chairman, I can assure you that it has been——

2ND MEMBER OF AUDIENCE (*again interrupting*): Don't try to deny it. You rejected the plan——

PROVOST BRUCE: As Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen, I must ask members of the audience to refrain from interruptions. If they wish to

## BRIGHTER CITIZENS

question the speaker on any point they may do so when he has finished speaking. Please continue, Mr Clark.

MR CLARK: Thank you, Mr Chairman. As I was saying, when I became a member of the Housing Committee my policy was to urge the erection of the greatest number of houses. I opposed the construction of steel houses. I don't like them, and I am sure most of the people here don't like them. Stone or brick houses are as cheap to build and give more employment to local firms than would steel houses. I think Scotsby has now some of the best-designed housing schemes in the country, and the citizens can take a just pride in them.

In conclusion, Mr Chairman, if I am elected I shall continue to serve the best interests of the ratepayers. In particular I shall press the question of the building of a new road bridge across the river. The town is rapidly growing, and people in the northern suburbs are urgently in need of a short cut to the shopping centre. (*Cries of "Hear! Hear!"*) If you return me I shall consider that you have given me a mandate to urge my fellow-councillors to proceed with the building of the proposed road bridge.

PROVOST BRUCE: Would anyone like to ask Mr Clark a question?

3RD MEMBER OF AUDIENCE: How much money does Mr Clark consider it would take to construct a new bridge?



## WE HOLD A WARD MEETING

MR CLARK: It is not easy to answer that question accurately. A bridge, similar to the one proposed, was built in Glenburgh two years ago; Glenburgh's bridge cost £40,000. I think ours would cost approximately the same amount.

### SOMETHING TO DO:

Prepare election addresses for the other two candidates, Mrs Wilson and Mr Muir.

MR GALBRAITH: Mr Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen. As one of the oldest ratepayers I have much pleasure in asking the meeting to accord a sincere vote of thanks to the three candidates for their attendance here to-night to state their policies, and also to the chairman, our worthy Provost, for so ably presiding over the meeting. (*Applause.*)

*(Meeting now disperses.)*

### SOMETHING TO DO:

1. Give short definitions of: Notice of Motion; Polling Day; Municipal Election; Vote of Thanks.
2. Study the illustration on page 23. Consider any new housing schemes in your area and state whether you think they are well or badly planned. Give reasons to back up your opinion.



### SECTION III

## WE VOTE BY BALLOT

**M**UNICIPAL ELECTIONS are held annually in November, when one-third of the total membership of a Town Council retire by rotation. In Scotsby there is no contest, let us suppose, in the Second and Eighth Wards; the candidates for these wards have been returned unopposed to the Town Council. Elections are taking place in the other seven wards, including the First Ward, in which we are voters.

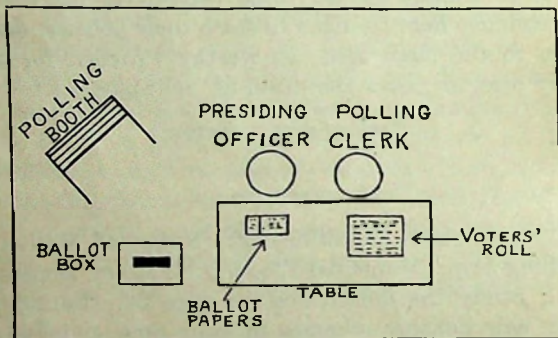


DIAGRAM 3.—A POLLING STATION

A Polling Station is the place where people go to record their votes; if it happens to be in a school the pupils are granted a holiday for the day of the

## WE VOTE BY BALLOT

Election. The Station remains open from 8 A.M. until 8 P.M. or 9 P.M.

At the table are seated the Presiding Officer, who is in charge of the Polling Station, and a clerk known as the Polling Clerk. The Returning Officer, the person officially appointed to carry out the whole election, has administered the oath, under the Ballot Act, to them and to all persons officiating at Polling Stations. At the side of the Presiding Officer is the Ballot Box, with a slot in the lid to permit Ballot Papers to be inserted. Before the voting begins, both officials inspect the box to make sure that it is empty, after which the lid is tied down and sealed. On the table in front of the Presiding Officer is a book of Ballot Papers and Counterfoils.

1	<b>CLARK</b> (James Clark of 52 George St., Scotsby, Grocer.)	
2	<b>MUIR</b> (Thomas Frederick Muir of 1 High St., Scotsby, Newsagent.)	
3	<b>WILSON</b> (Mrs Mary Wilson of 17 Castle Ave., Scotsby, Housewife.)	

BALLOT PAPER FOR FIRST WARD

Ready to hand, the Presiding Officer has an official stamp for embossing the town's coat of arms on all Ballot Papers issued; if, at the count, a voting paper not embossed, or bearing any mark

## BRIGHTER CITIZENS

other than a **X**, is discovered, this paper is regarded as a spoiled vote.

In front of the Polling Clerk is a copy of the Voters' Roll, or at least that section of it containing the names of all voters in the First Ward. Names are alphabetically arranged, and after each the address is given.

The Polling Clerk's duty is to ask each voter his name and address, to find these particulars in the Voters' Roll and to delete them before the Presiding Officer issues a Ballot Paper. A person may think he is qualified to vote, but if his name by any chance does not appear on the Voters' Roll he is not allowed to vote. Electors may inspect the Voters' Roll before elections to have any error corrected.

The Polling Booth is so placed as to ensure the voter as much privacy as possible. The Booth is a three-sided compartment with a ledge on which the Ballot Paper may be placed while being marked; in case the voter has forgotten to bring a pencil, one is attached by a string to the Booth.

## VOTING

### CHARACTERS

SCENE I: Polling Station. *Presiding Officer and Polling Clerk. Policeman, Blind Voter, Illiterate Voter, and other voters.*

Now let us imagine we are First Ward electors who have arrived at the Polling Station to cast our

## WE VOTE BY BALLOT

votes for one or other of the three candidates who addressed us at the Ward Meeting.

### SOMETHING TO DO:

Two pupils will be appointed to take over the duty of Presiding Officer and of Polling Clerk. (See Diagram 3.) A Policeman should also be in attendance. A Polling Booth and Ballot Box are easily improvised. A class register or a list of names of pupils in alphabetical order will suffice for the Voters' Roll; the school stamp or any rubber stamp may be used as a substitute for the official stamp of the town.

We each give our name to the Polling Clerk and receive a Ballot Paper from the Presiding Officer. Then we cross to the Polling Booth and register our vote by making a **X** opposite the name of our choice, fold the paper and drop it into the Ballot Box.

Let us suppose one of our number is blind and another is illiterate. How can such electors register their votes in secrecy? The Presiding Officer gives assistance; he clears the room and asks the blind or illiterate voter to name his choice and marks the paper accordingly. A blind person, if he prefers to do so, may bring in a friend to vote for him.

SCENE 2. Inside Town Hall. *Returning Officer and Enumerators.*

When all have voted and the station has been closed the Election Officials take the Ballot Box to



## BRIGHTER CITIZENS

the Town Hall, the Court House, or similar place where the votes are to be counted. Here all the Ballot Boxes are opened, and their contents emptied on to a table, where the papers are arranged in groups according to the name of the candidate receiving the vote. Spoiled papers are detected and laid aside.

SCENE 3: *Provost*, at window of Town Hall;  
*Electors*, in street below.

The candidates may be present to watch the counting of the votes. When the enumerators have completed their task the Election Result is announced to the Public by the Provost or by one of the Magistrates. Election results are almost certain to be published in the local or national newspapers.

### SOMETHING TO DO:

1. Give the meaning of: Retire by rotation; Illiterate; Returning Officer; Polling Clerk; Presiding Officer; Spoiled paper; Polling Station.

2. Members of Parliament are elected by secret ballot in a manner similar to that described above. Elect an "M.P." to represent your class.

#### SECTION IV

### WE BECOME A TOWN COUNCIL: THE ANNUAL MEETING

A TOWN COUNCIL or a City Council is often referred to as a Corporation. Usually its meeting place adjoins the Town Hall. A Town Council has, as a rule, one meeting every month. If the need arises, a Special Meeting may be held.

Let us assume that Polling Day in Scotsby is past and that the Municipal Election results have been announced. Each Councillor then receives a letter similar to the following:

SCOTSBY,  
4th November 19—. MAY

The Annual Meeting of the Provost, Magistrates and Councillors of the Burgh of Scotsby will, in terms of Statute, meet in the Municipal Chambers, High Street, Scotsby, on Friday first, 9th inst., at 12 o'clock noon.

#### BUSINESS

1. Election of two Bailies.
2. Election of an Honorary Treasurer.
3. Outside Body: Election of three Governors to Scotsby Infirmary.

J. RAMSAY.  
Town Clerk.

Let us now form in our minds a picture of a Town Council meeting place. Here is the lay-out of the

## BRIGHTER CITIZENS

Council Chambers in Scotsby; when performing the playlet in this chapter, modify the plan to resemble that of your own Town or City Council. Information on this matter can be obtained at the Town Clerk's office.

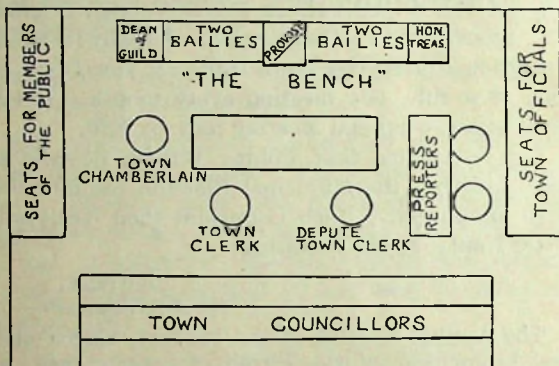


DIAGRAM 4.—PLAN OF SCOTSBY TOWN COUNCIL

The Bench in the above Council consists of the Provost, four Bailies, the Honorary Treasurer and the Dean of Guild. (The Provost and Bailies are also known as Magistrates because they sit in judgment in the Burgh Police Court.) The Provost acts as Chairman at Council Meetings; most large cities in Scotland have Provosts or Lord Provosts. In England and Wales the leading Councillor is referred to as Mayor or Lord Mayor, and "Alderman" is practically the equivalent of

## TOWN COUNCIL: ANNUAL MEETING



*British Council*

A TOWN COUNCIL IN SESSION. A COUNCILLOR ADDRESSES THE COUNCIL. OFFICIALS AND PRESS REPORTERS ARE IN THE FOREGROUND

“Bailie.” The Dean of Guild is Chairman of the Dean of Guild Court, to which all plans of proposed alterations to buildings, or erection of buildings in the Burgh are submitted for approval. The Honorary Treasurer is Chairman of the Finance Committee.

The Town Clerk and his Deputy, who act as Secretaries to the Council, are paid employees. The Town Chamberlain, also a paid employee, attends to the financial affairs of the Municipality. Members of the public may come and watch the Council conducting its business. Press reporters attend and prepare for the newspapers accounts of all the speeches.



# BRIGHTER CITIZENS

		PROVOST BRUCE	BAILIE BROWN	BAILIE COOK	DEAN OF GUILD KERR	AIRD	BURNS	SMITH	WELLS	TOTAL VOTES
(a)	HILL . .	1		1		1		1		4
	KING . .				1					1
	WELLS . .		1				1		1	3
(b)	HILL . .	1		1	1	1		1		5
	WELLS . .		1				1		1	3
	MINUTE .			1		1				2
	AMENDMENT	1	1		1		1	1	1	6

DIAGRAM 5.—VOTING BY ROLL CALL

A Town Council usually votes by Roll Call. Look at section (a) in diagram 5. The Town Clerk announces: "The voting is between Hill, King and Wells." The Town Clerk then reads out the names along the top row: Provost Bruce (who replies "Hill"), Bailie Brown (who replies "Wells"), Bailie Cook (who replies "Hill"), Dean of Guild Kerr (who replies "King"), Councillor Aird (who replies "Hill"), Councillor Burns (who replies "Wells"), Councillor Smith (who replies "Hill") and Councillor Wells (who replies "Wells"). As a result King drops out, and a second vote is taken. The Town Clerk announces: "The voting is now between Hill and Wells." He again reads out the names along the top row. This time Hill defeats Wells by 5 votes to 3. For Scotsby Town Council 27 names of members should be given instead of 8 as in the diagram.

## TOWN COUNCIL: ANNUAL MEETING

In section (b) of diagram 5, the Town Clerk announces: "The voting is between Minute and Amendment." This time the Councillors reply "Minute" or "Amendment" when their names are called. You can see that the Amendment is carried by 6 votes to 2.

### A COUNCIL MEETING

#### CHARACTERS

SCENE: Town Council Meeting Place.

*Provost Bruce, Bailie Brown, Bailie Cook, Dean of Guild Kerr.*

*Town Councillors: 1 Aird, 2 Burns, 3 Clark, 4 Craig, 5 Duncan, 6 Ferguson, 7 Grant, 8 Hill, 9 Johnston, 10 King, 11 Lang, 12 Marshall, 13 MacLean, 14 Murray, 15 Nairn, 16 Ringland, 17 Mrs Reid, 18 Miss Rose, 19 Scott, 20 Smith, 21 Stewart, 22 Wells, 23 Young.*

*Town Clerk, J. Ramsay; Deputy Town Clerk; Town Chamberlain; and other Council Officials. Town Chaplain; Two Press reporters; Members of Public.*

(Councillors, Officials and Members of the Public have taken their seats. They all stand and remain standing while the Provost and other members of the Bench enter and take their places.)

PROVOST BRUCE: I would like to ask the Town Chaplain to open our Meeting with prayer.

## BRIGHTER CITIZENS

TOWN CHAPLAIN: At the beginning of this new term of office, I pray that the blessing of God rest upon the elected representatives of the people of Scotsby and on the Town Officials in all their duties throughout the coming year.

PROVOST BRUCE: Before proceeding to the business on the Agenda, I congratulate Councillors Clark, Duncan, MacLean, Ringland and Young on their re-election to our Council. Further, I would like to extend a hearty welcome to Councillors Craig, Grant, Rose and Wells who have been elected for the first time to this Council.

TOWN CLERK: Will the following members please come forward in turn and take the oath as Councillors? Councillors Clark, Craig, Duncan, Grant, MacLean, Ringland, Rose, Wells and Young.

*(As the oath is read by the Town Clerk to Councillor Clark he repeats it phrase by phrase. The same procedure is followed for all the others.)*

"I, John Clark, Councillor elect for the First Ward, do hereby solemnly and sincerely promise and declare that I will faithfully perform the duties of the office of Councillor of the Burgh of Scotsby to which I have been elected."

PROVOST BRUCE: In accordance with the Agenda, of which you have a copy, I now, under item one, call for the nomination of two Bailies.

BAILIE COOK: Provost Bruce and Members of the Town Council. I have pleasure in proposing

## TOWN COUNCIL: ANNUAL MEETING

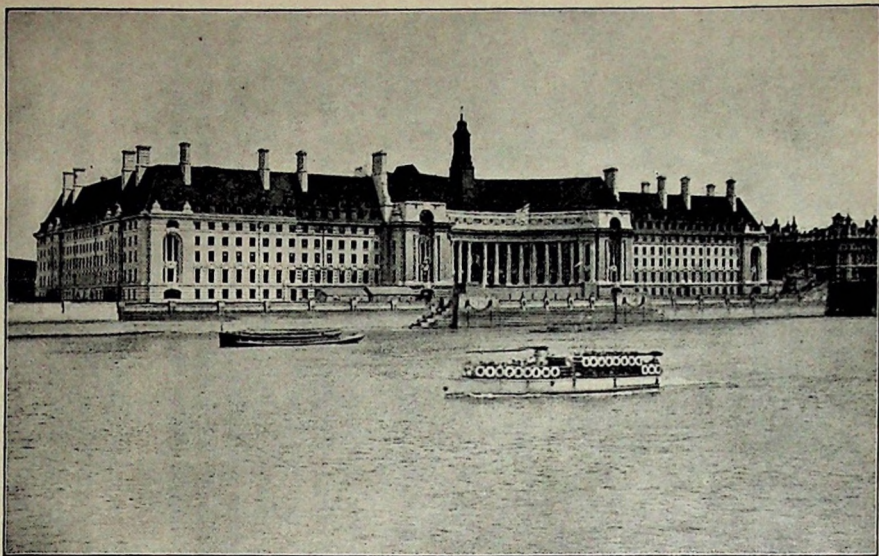
that Councillor John Clark be elected to the office of Bailie. He is a native of our Burgh. He has been a member of the Town Council for many years, and has served upon the main committees. He bears an honest and upright character, and is very highly respected in the town. I am sure he will fill the office with credit.

COUNCILLOR DUNCAN: Provost Bruce and Fellow-Members of the Town Council. I consider it a great privilege to second the nomination of Councillor Clark. Since his appointment as Councillor, some ten years ago, he has carried out his duties as Convener of the Water and of the Housing Committees with credit. I am sure he now richly deserves a seat on the Bench.

DEAN OF GUILD KERR: Provost Bruce and Members of the Town Council. I beg to propose the name of Councillor Stewart as a Bailie. Gentlemen, these are stirring days in which we live, and they call for leaders with energy and imagination. I feel that the ability which Councillor Stewart has shown since coming to the town is a recommendation to which we should give the greatest importance. I accordingly bring forward his name and press for his election.

COUNCILLOR MURRAY: Mr Provost. I heartily concur in what Dean of Guild Kerr has said. Knowing Councillor Stewart very well I am sure he is the type of young man who will bring Scotsby Town Council to the forefront of Local Government.





*Topical Press Agency*

COUNTY HALL, LONDON: THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE LONDON COUNTY COUNCIL

TOWN COUNCIL: ANNUAL MEETING

I have, therefore, much pleasure in seconding his nomination.

COUNCILLOR LANG: Mr Provost, Magistrates and Councillors. I beg to propose Councillor Young as a Magistrate. Councillor Young has devoted many years' service to Youth Organisations; the knowledge he has gained will stand him in good stead as the work of the Magistrates in the Burgh Police Court is largely amongst the young. Councillor Young knows the work, and I am a firm believer in sticking to proved and trusted servants.

COUNCILLOR HILL: Mr Provost. I beg to second the nomination. I can endorse all that has been so well said already by the previous speaker.

COUNCILLOR MRS REID: Mr Provost, Magistrates and Councillors. Now that women have had the vote for a number of years, I think we can say that they have served a good apprenticeship, and none has served so well as Councillor Miss Rose. She is an able speaker, and her social work is known to all. Now that women are taking a great share in public life I think it would be a gracious gesture to have a Lady Magistrate.

COUNCILLOR GRANT: Mr Provost, Magistrates and Councillors. It is with great pleasure that I second the proposal. Women have proved themselves in every walk of life to be fit to play their part. I hope that Miss Rose will be elected.

PROVOST BRUCE: I take it these are all the nominations? We require to appoint two new

## BRIGHTER CITIZENS

Bailies. Four names have been proposed: Councillors Clark, Stewart, Young and Miss Rose.

TOWN CLERK: The voting will be by Roll Call. Each member will have two votes.

*(As the Town Clerk reads out the roll of Councillors each member calls out the names of the two candidates for whom he is voting. The Depute Town Clerk keeps a record similar to that shown in diagram 5.)*

The result of the voting is as follows:

Councillor Clark	——	votes
Councillor Stewart	——	votes
Councillor Young	——	votes
Councillor Miss Rose	——	votes

*(Let us suppose Stewart and Young have been successful.)*

PROVOST BRUCE: I compliment Councillors Stewart and Young on their election to the Bench. Would these two gentlemen please come forward and take the oath as Bailies?

*(As the oath is read by the Town Clerk to Bailie Stewart he repeats it phrase by phrase. The same procedure is followed for Bailie Young.)*

TOWN CLERK (reads): I, Bailie Charles Stewart, do solemnly, sincerely and truly declare, affirm and swear, that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to His Majesty King George the Sixth, his heirs and successors according to the law, and that I will well and truly serve our Sovereign Lord King George in



TOWN COUNCIL: ANNUAL MEETING

the office of Magistrate of the Burgh of Scotsby, and will do right to all manner of people after the laws and usages of this realm, without fear or favour, affection or ill-will. So help me God!

PROVOST BRUCE: I now pass to item two on the Agenda, the appointment of an Honorary Treasurer. Are there any nominations?

BAILIE BROWN: Mr Provost. I have much pleasure in proposing the re-election of Councillor Scott. The efficiency of his work during his last three years of office has I am sure very favourably impressed everyone on this Council.

*(Cries of "Hear! Hear!")*

BAILIE COOK: I have pleasure, Mr Provost, in seconding this nomination.

PROVOST BRUCE *(after a short pause)*: There being no further nominations, I declare Mr Scott unanimously appointed.

TOWN CLERK: Will Mr Scott now come forward and take the oath?

"I, Walter Scott, do hereby solemnly and sincerely promise and declare that I will faithfully perform the duties of the office of Honorary Treasurer of the Burgh of Scotsby to which I have been elected."

*(The Honorary Treasurer repeats the oath phrase by phrase and then assumes his place on the Bench.)*

PROVOST BRUCE: I proceed to item three on the Agenda, the election of three Governors to Scotsby



## BRIGHTER CITIZENS

Infirmary. As you are doubtless aware, we are entitled to appoint three representatives annually to this independent body.

### SOMETHING TO DO:

1. Propose and second the names of five Councillors as governors of Scotsby Infirmary.
2. Take the vote by Roll Call, following the procedure detailed above.
3. Explain what is meant by: Town Clerk; Town Chamberlain; Corporation; Provost; Bailie; Magistrate; Alderman; Mayor; Dean of Guild; Honorary; Voting by Roll Call.



A COMMITTEE OF A TOWN COUNCIL IN SESSION

#### SECTION V

### WE BECOME A TOWN COUNCIL: COMMITTEES

**I**N the previous chapter we attended the Annual Meeting of the Town Council where new members were welcomed and "sworn in"; the main business we transacted then was the election of two new magistrates. Later, let us imagine, we met again and appointed members to the various Committees of the Town Council. These Committees have special jobs to attend to, for example, to supply Electricity or Gas services in the town, to build New Houses, to look after the Parks, and so on.

## BRIGHTER CITIZENS

A Town Council Committee consists usually of a small number of members; when it has business to transact the "Convener," its leading member, summons it through the Town Clerk to meet in a committee-room in the Town Chambers.

The Town Clerk or his Deputy is always present at Committee Meetings and prepares the minutes. Other Local Government Officials, such as the Town Chamberlain, Collector of Rates (if these posts are held by separate persons), Sanitary Inspector, Burgh Surveyor, Water Engineer, Gas Manager, Electricity Manager, Social Welfare Officer, Medical Officer of Health, Chief Constable, and others are asked to attend Committee Meetings which deal with matters affecting their departments. Such officials give their expert opinions when requested; they do not take part in the voting.

Town Councils do not all have the same number of committees. Let us suppose the Burgh of Scotsby has the following committees:

- (a) Magistrates Committee.
- (b) Finance Committee.
- (c) Water Committee.
- (d) Gas Committee.
- (e) Electricity Committee.
- (f) Housing and Town Planning Committee.
- (g) House-letting Committee.
- (h) Lighting and Fire Brigade Committee.
- (i) Public Health Committee.
- (j) Social Welfare Committee.
- (k) Cleansing Committee.

## TOWN COUNCIL: COMMITTEES



*British Council*

### POLICE SUPERINTENDENTS DISCUSS PLANS FOR GREATER ROAD SAFETY

- (l) Parks and Allotments Committee.
- (m) Roads, Streets and Bridges Committee.
- (n) Drainage Committee.

### SOMETHING TO DO:

1. On a sheet of paper write comments on the following statements, naming the various committees of Scotsby Town Council which will deal with these matters. Compare your replies with the 22 answers given on pages 53-54.

1. The Council propose to erect 500 new houses.
2. A large factory may come to Scotsby if it can obtain 4,000,000 gallons of water per day.



## BRIGHTER CITIZENS

3. There is a complaint that children are trespassing on allotments because there is no fence.
4. It is proposed to install a new lighting system in the High Street.
5. There has been a gift of a wireless set to Scotsby Fever Hospital.
6. A woman and five children have been found destitute in the High Street.
7. Two refuse wagons have broken down.
8. Arrange date for opening of Public Bowling Greens and Public Tennis Courts.
9. The Town Council propose to install a Benzole Plant.
10. Mrs Green of 90 Waterloo Road wishes to change houses with Mrs Black of 36 Silver Street.
11. The Sanitary Inspector reports that four houses should be condemned.
12. It is proposed to make a new "roundabout" for traffic at the junction of St Andrew Street, Church Street and Castle Road.
13. It is proposed to borrow £20,000 to erect new Gas Works.
14. Licences for milk supplies.
15. Resolution to change over from D.C. to A.C.
16. Consider increase in Juvenile Delinquency.
17. Applications for clothing from poor persons.
18. Proposal to erect a bridge across the river at Greenholm.
19. Suspected epidemic of diphtheria.
20. Proposal to reduce refuse collections.
21. Application for permission to hold Flag Day.
22. It is proposed to erect new sewage works.

## TOWN COUNCIL: COMMITTEES



*By courtesy of Manchester Corporation*

### CITY TRANSPORT: A BUS STATION

Now let us imagine that the *Electricity Committee* is meeting in this room. Round a table are gathered six members of Scotsby Town Council; and two officials.

## A COMMITTEE MEETING

### CHARACTERS

Councillor King (*Convener*), Provost Bruce, Bailie Brown, Councillors Aird, Smith and Duncan. The Town Clerk and the Electricity Manager are present.

In front of Councillor King, the chairman, lies a copy of the following Agenda:

## BRIGHTER CITIZENS

We will recommend to the Council accordingly.

Let us pass now to the third item on the Agenda.

TOWN CLERK (*reads Electricity Manager's report*):  
"During the past month the amount of electricity consumed showed an increase of 7 per cent. over that of the corresponding month last year."

CONVENER: I consider that very satisfactory and move adoption of the report.

PROVOST BRUCE: It certainly is. I would like to second the adoption of the report.

CONVENER: Concerning the last item of business, I have gone over the accounts submitted to me by the Electricity Manager; they amount to £3700. I am satisfied they are correct and move that they be passed to the Finance Committee for payment.

COUNCILLOR AIRD: I have pleasure in seconding that.

*(The Electricity Committee has now completed all the business on the Agenda and the members disperse. In about a month's time the Convener will call them together again.)*

Let us take another example of a Town Council Committee at work. This time, we shall suppose the *Housing Committee* has been convened and is gathered round a table.

## CHARACTERS

Dean of Guild Kerr (*Convener*), Bailie Cook, Councillors Clark, Maclean, Ringland and Miss Reid.

## TOWN COUNCIL: COMMITTEES

The Town Clerk, J. Ramsay, and the Burgh Surveyor, K. Dunbar, are in attendance.

The Dean of Guild, chairman in this case, has in front of him the following Agenda:

1. Monthly report as to Erection of Houses.
2. Site for 60 additional New Houses.
3. Accounts.

CONVENER: I call on the Town Clerk to read the Burgh Surveyor's report.

TOWN CLERK: "I have to report that of the 250 houses at present under construction in Scotsby 50 have been completed and are occupied; 100 are at present nearing completion and the painters are working on them; 50 are at roof-top level and 50 foundations have been laid."

CONVENER: I consider the report satisfactory and move the approval thereof.

COUNCILLOR CLARK: I do not agree that sufficient progress is being made. I suggest that the Burgh Surveyor be asked to approach contractors with a view to their employing more labour on these houses.

CONVENER: What Councillor Clark has suggested has already been done and the Ministry of Labour has agreed to assist the contractors as, and when, the labour is available.

'Gentlemen, I now pass on to item two on the Agenda. You will remember that at its last meeting the Town Council agreed that 60 additional



## BRIGHTER CITIZENS



*Crown Copyright*

WATER HAS SO MANY USES: DON'T WASTE IT!

houses be erected. The matter was remitted to this Committee, and we were asked to recommend a suitable site for them.

COUNCILLOR RINGLAND: Isn't it difficult for a committee sitting round a table to say what is or what isn't a suitable site? I would suggest that this matter be remitted to a Sub-Committee consisting of the Convener, Bailie Cook, and Councillor Clark to go round with the Burgh Surveyor and inspect likely sites within the Burgh. They could recommend to this committee the site

## TOWN COUNCIL: COMMITTEES

appearing to them to be most suitable for the erection of the proposed 60 houses.

CONVENER: I heartily agree that that would be the best procedure. If there are no objections I shall pass to the last item, the Accounts. I have examined the accounts submitted by the Burgh Surveyor. They total £43,200 and are correct. I move that they be passed to the Finance Committee with a recommendation that they be paid.

COUNCILLOR RINGLAND: I second that.

CONVENER: Well, Gentlemen, that is all the business.

## SOMETHING TO DO:

Pretend you are the Town Clerk. Prepare the Minutes of the Housing Committee. The Minutes of the Electricity Committee will be found in the next chapter (on page 56).

### *Answers to questions on pages 45-46*

1. (f) Housing and Town Planning.
2. (c) Water.
3. (l) Parks and Allotments.
4. (h) Lighting and Fire Brigade.
5. (i) Public Health.
6. (j) Social Welfare.
7. (k) Cleansing.
8. (l) Parks and Allotments.
9. (d) Gas.
10. (g) House Letting.
11. (i) Public Health.

### BRIGHTER CITIZENS

12. (m) Roads, Streets and Bridges.
13. (b) Finance and (d) Gas.
14. (i) Public Health.
15. (e) Electricity.
16. (a) Magistrates.
17. (j) Social Welfare.
18. (m) Roads, Streets and Bridges.
19. (i) Public Health.
20. (k) Cleansing.
21. (a) Magistrates.
22. (n) Drainage.

### SOMETHING TO DO:

1. Give the meaning of: D.C. and A.C.; Committee; Convener; Juvenile Delinquent; Destitute; Epidemic; Remit back from Council.

2. Imagine you are present at the meeting of police superintendents shown on page 45. Can you suggest one way of increasing the safety of the roads in your own neighbourhood?

3. A suggestion. A police official might be willing, if invited, to give you a talk on road safety or on some other topic.

4. (a) How much are your local rates?

(b) What is the annual cost to your Local Council for supplying water to the community? (This information may be got from your Council office.)

## SECTION VI

### WE BECOME A TOWN COUNCIL: A MONTHLY MEETING

**I**N the previous section we have seen how a Town Council has a number of committees, each of which tackles a particular set of problems. After a committee has met and discussed the business assigned to it, it reports its findings for approval, rejection, or amendment to the next monthly meeting of the entire Town Council. We are going to see how this is done.

The Town Clerk prepares the minutes of all Committee Meetings held during the month, and issues a copy of these minutes to each Town Councillor along with a letter similar to the following:

#### TOWN COUNCIL OF SCOTSBY

*26th July 19—*

The Monthly Meeting of the Council will be held in Town Chambers, High Street, Scotsby, on Thursday, 29th July 19—, at 11.30 forenoon.

J. RAMSAY.

*Town Clerk.*

#### *Business*

1. Apologies for absence.
2. Report of Electricity Committee.
3. Report of Public Health Committee.



BRIGHTER CITIZENS

4. Report of Gas Committee.
5. Report of Cleansing Committee.
6. Report of Housing and Town Planning Committee.
7. Report of Finance Committee.
8. Report of Social Welfare Committee.
9. Resignation of M.O.H.

*(Enclosed with the above letter are the following Minutes.)*

COMMITTEE MINUTES FOR TOWN COUNCIL  
MEETING TO BE HELD ON 29TH JULY 19—

ELECTRICITY COMMITTEE—7th July 19—

*Present:* Councillor King.      Councillor Aird.  
                 Provost Bruce.      Councillor Smith.  
                 Bailie Brown.      Councillor Duncan.

*In attendance:* The Electricity Manager; The  
                         Town Clerk

The Convener reported (1) that, in terms of remit back from the Council at their last meeting, he desired the Committee to reconsider the question of installing a new Sub-station at Newfield Road; and (2) that, since that meeting, he had interviewed the Electricity Manager, who promised to let the Committee have at an early date additional information as to the cost. After discussion the Committee agreed to adjourn further consideration until information was submitted by the Electricity Manager.

## TOWN COUNCIL: MONTHLY MEETING

The Town Clerk read the report of the Electricity Manager showing consumption of electricity for the month of June, which showed an increase of 7 per cent. over the corresponding month last year. The report was approved.

There were submitted accounts, totalling £3700, and the Convener reported that he was satisfied as to their correctness. The meeting then agreed to pass the accounts to the Finance Committee for payment.

### PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE—12th July 19—

<i>Present:</i> Bailie Stewart.	Councillor Ferguson.
Bailie Young.	Councillor Marshall.
Provost Bruce.	Councillor Miss Rose.
Treasurer Scott.	

*In attendance:* The Medical Officer of Health;  
The Town Clerk.

The Committee considered a letter from the Secretary of the Ministry of Health inquiring about the results of the recent public campaign for the immunisation of children against Diphtheria. The Medical Officer of Health reported that 80 per cent. of the school children in Scotsby had been immunised. After discussion the Committee unanimously agreed that the letter be given to the M.O.H. for reply to the Department of Health.

BRIGHTER CITIZENS

GAS COMMITTEE—13th July 19—

*Present:* Councillor Lang. Councillor Murray.  
Bailie Cook. Councillor Nairn.  
Dean of Guild Kerr. Councillor Mrs Reid.

*In attendance:* The Gas Manager; The Town Clerk  
Depute.

Councillor Lang, seconded by Councillor Mrs Reid, proposed that the price of gas in the Burgh be lowered from 10*d.* to 9*d.* per therm. Councillor Nairn moved an amendment that the price be unchanged; this was seconded by Dean of Guild Kerr. On the matter being put to the vote the motion was carried by four votes to two.

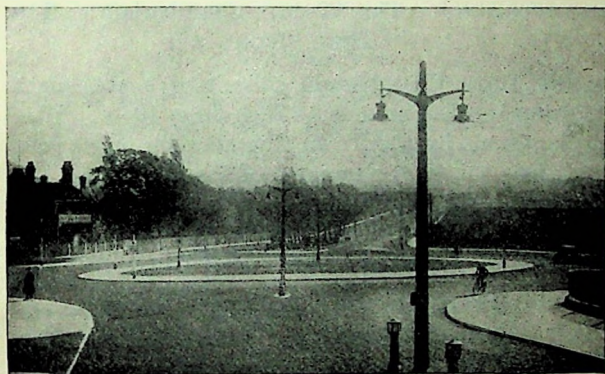
CLEANSING COMMITTEE—8th July 19—

*Present:* Bailie Brown. Treasurer Scott.  
Councillor Ringland. Councillor Smith.  
Councillor Clark. Councillor Johnston.

*In attendance:* The Sanitary Inspector; The  
Town Clerk.

Councillor Clark drew attention to the large number of broken milk bottles scattered over the streets, and asked if anything could be done to remedy matters. The Sanitary Inspector reported that he had done his best to free the streets from glass, but that some areas of the town were particularly bad, and he suggested that the police

## TOWN COUNCIL: MONTHLY MEETING



*By courtesy of Birmingham Corporation*

### A MODERN ROAD INTERSECTION

keep watch and prosecute any person found throwing or scattering broken milk bottles on the streets. The Committee approved of the Sanitary Inspector's suggestion and instructed the Town Clerk to communicate with the Chief Constable.

#### HOUSING AND TOWN PLANNING COMMITTEE—

11th July 19—

*(Minutes to be prepared by the class.)*

#### FINANCE COMMITTEE—7th July 19—

*Present:* Treasurer Scott.      Provost Bruce.  
                  Councillor Aird.      Bailie Brown.  
                  Councillor King.    Bailie Cook.  
                                    Bailie Young.



## BRIGHTER CITIZENS

*In attendance:* The Town Chamberlain; The  
Town Clerk.

The Town Chamberlain submitted a statement showing the balances as at 30th June 19—. After explanations by the Town Chamberlain on various questions asked by Members of the Committee the statement was approved.

### SOCIAL WELFARE COMMITTEE—7th July 19—

*Present:* Provost Bruce.      Councillor King.  
Bailie Stewart.      Councillor Mrs Reid.

*In attendance:* Social Welfare Officer; Town Clerk  
Depute.

The Social Welfare Officer reported that ten persons had received casual relief during the month of June. The Committee approved of the report.

Each Town Councillor receives a copy of the above letter and Committee Minutes and he can learn what has been done by those committees of which he is not a member; if he so desires, he may voice his opinions or ask questions from the conveners of the various committees at the monthly meeting of the full Town Council. In general, recommendations by committees must be approved by the Council before they can be acted upon.

Now let us imagine Scotsby Town Councillors have assembled (see Diagram 4, p. 32).

## TOWN COUNCIL: MONTHLY MEETING

## A COUNCIL MEETING

## CHARACTERS

(Same as given on p. 35, except that now Mr Stewart and Mr Young are Bailies, and Mr Scott is the Honorary Treasurer. Councillors Hill and Mrs Reid are absent.)

PROVOST BRUCE: Magistrates and Councillors. I have to intimate apologies for absence from Councillor Hill and Councillor Mrs Reid. We shall now proceed to the business on the Agenda.

COUNCILLOR KING (*Convener of Electricity Committee*): I beg to move approval of the Report of the Electricity Committee.

PROVOST BRUCE (*Sub-Convener of Electricity Committee*): I beg to second that.

COUNCILLOR MARSHALL: Mr Provost. Has the Convener of the Electricity Committee any further information to give in regard to the cost of the proposed Sub-station at Newfield Road?

COUNCILLOR KING (*Convener*): I have nothing further to add to the Report, but the Electricity Manager has promised to let me have a statement as to the likely cost by next week at the latest.

COUNCILLOR MARSHALL: Thank you.

PROVOST BRUCE: As there is no amendment to the Report, the Report is adopted.

*Item three.*

BAILIE STEWART (*Convener of Public Health*

BRIGHTER CITIZENS

*Committee*): I beg to move approval of the Report of the Public Health Committee.

BAILIE YOUNG (*Sub-Convener of Public Health Committee*): I beg to second the Report.

COUNCILLOR MURRAY: I must say, when I was reading over the Report of this committee last night, that I was surprised to note that only 80 per cent. of our school population had been immunised against the terrible scourge of Diphtheria. One pupil out of every five has not yet been inoculated! That to me appears very unsatisfactory. How does Scotsby compare with other towns?

BAILIE STEWART (*Convener*): Mr Provost. I can assure Councillor Murray that although Scotsby's immunisation record compares very favourably with that of other towns of a similar size, the Public Health Committee is far from satisfied. Our goal is to have every child in the town immunised; our greatest difficulty is to persuade certain parents of the real dangers they are taking in neglecting to have their children rendered immune to Diphtheria.

PROVOST BRUCE: As there is no amendment, the Report is adopted.

*Item four.*

COUNCILLOR LANG (*Convener of Gas Committee*): I beg to move approval of the Report of the Gas Committee.

BAILIE COOK (*Sub-Convener of Gas Committee*): I beg to second that.

TOWN COUNCIL: MONTHLY MEETING

COUNCILLOR NAIRN: Mr Provost. I beg to move the amendment I moved unsuccessfully in Committee, namely that the price of gas remain the same as at present. If however the Gas Department is making a profit, the extra money should be spent upon improvements of the Gas Works. If the price of gas is reduced by 1*d.* per therm this year, I am quite sure it will be necessary to increase it by 2*d.* per therm next year.

COUNCILLOR WELLS: You are quite correct, Councillor Nairn. If memory serves me aright that is exactly what happened four years ago!

PROVOST BRUCE: Is there any seconder to Councillor Nairn's amendment?

COUNCILLOR DUNCAN: I have much pleasure in seconding the amendment.

TOWN CLERK: The vote will be taken by Roll Call and will be between "Minute" and "Amendment." Those in favour of the "Minute" will say "Minute" and those in favour of the Amendment will say "Amendment."

*(The Town Clerk now proceeds to call the roll and note the votes. At the end of the voting the Town Clerk will announce the result.)*

The result of the voting is as follows: — votes for the Minute and — votes for the Amendment.

PROVOST BRUCE: I declare the ——— carried. We pass now to *item five* on the Agenda.



BRIGHTER CITIZENS

BAILIE BROWN (*Convener of the Cleansing Committee*): I beg to move approval of the Report of the Cleansing Committee.

COUNCILLOR RINGLAND: As the Sub-Convener, I have pleasure in seconding the Report.

PROVOST BRUCE: As there is no amendment, I declare the Report approved.

DEAN OF GUILD KERR (*Convener of Housing and Town Planning Committee*): I beg to move approval of the Report of the Housing and Town Planning Committee.

BAILIE COOK (*Sub-Convener*): I second that.

*Item six.* SOMETHING TO DO:

Move an amendment to some point in the Housing Committee Report you have already prepared; then take the vote by Roll Call.

PROVOST BRUCE: I will now take *item seven*.

TREASURER SCOTT (*Convener*): I beg to move approval of the Report of the Finance Committee.

COUNCILLOR AIRD (*Sub-Convener*): I beg to second that.

PROVOST BRUCE: The Report is approved. *Item eight.* I beg to move approval of the Report of the Social Welfare Committee.

BAILIE STEWART: I beg to second the Report.

PROVOST BRUCE: The Report is approved. We now pass to the *last item*, the resignation of the M.O.H.

TOWN COUNCIL: MONTHLY MEETING

TOWN CLERK (*reads*):

SCOTSBY.

15th June 19—.

DEAR SIRs,—Having received the appointment of Medical Officer of Health for the City of Angleton, I hereby beg to intimate my resignation of the post of Medical Officer of Health for the town of Scotsby, as from 15th July.

At this time may I take the opportunity of thanking the Provost, Magistrates, Councillors and Officials for their help given me during my term of office. The friendships I have formed in your midst will always be treasured in my memory. Believe me, yours sincerely,

(Dr) A. CARRUTHERS.

PROVOST BRUCE: It is with regret that the Council will receive this resignation. We have always admired the manner in which the Doctor has carried out his duties during the seven years he has served in this burgh. We congratulate him on having received such a splendid new appointment. (*Councillors: Hear! Hear!*) I would suggest that the question of filling the vacancy be remitted to the Public Health Committee.

BAILIE BROWN: I second that.

PROVOST BRUCE: That is all the business on the Agenda. Gentlemen, I thank you for your presence here to-day.

-(*Councillors rise and disperse.*)

## BRIGHTER CITIZENS

### SOMETHING TO DO:

1. Give the meaning of the following: Immunisation; Unanimous; Sub-Convener.

2. Suggestions: (a) If you live in a town you may obtain permission from the Town Clerk to visit the Council Chamber. (b) Meetings of Town Councils are open to the public; perhaps you may be allowed to attend as a group. (c) The Town Clerk or some other local government official may accept an invitation to give a talk upon his duties.



A NURSERY SCHOOL. A CHILD PREPARES FOR THE  
MORNING REST

#### SECTION VII

### COUNTY COUNCILS

THE franchise for Town and County Councils is similar to that for Parliament: voters must be over 21 years of age. County Councils are elected every three years. A Chairman or Convener of the County (comparable to a Mayor or Provost in a Town Council) is appointed by the County Councillors.

The duties of County Councils are very comprehensive, and cover services such as the upkeep and construction of Roads, supervision of Health



## BRIGHTER CITIZENS

Services, maintenance of a Police Force, administration of Public Relief and control of Education Services.

Paid officials are appointed by County Councils to attend to each of these services. The chief official is the County Clerk.

The Director of Education is charged with the supervision of Education. He attends meetings of the Education Committee. Here is an Agenda issued to members of an Education Committee of a County Council. From it an idea can be gained of the kind of work carried out by an Education Committee.

### AGENDA

1. Minutes of staffing sub-committee meeting of 24th June 19—.

2. Report from Education Officer on the results of the examinations in the schools.

3. Report on use of schools for purposes other than ordinary day or continuation classes.

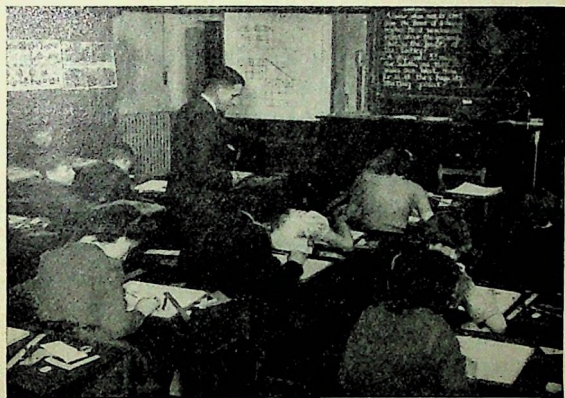
4. Report by Chairman on the discussion with representatives of the town of ——— regarding selection of a site for a new school in that burgh.

5. Application for the use of the hall of ——— High School.

6. Interview (at twelve noon) three applicants for appointment to the post of Infant Mistress at Briarbrook School.

Counties are generally split into Districts, each

## COUNTY COUNCILS



*Crown Copyright*

A CLASS ROOM IN A PRIMARY SCHOOL

with a District Council. Each County has a Lord Lieutenant, who is recognised as the King's Representative.

County Councils work in close association with many of the Central Government Departments, notably the Ministry of Health and the Home Office. In Scotland, contact is maintained with St Andrew's House, Edinburgh, where the Departments of Health, Education and the Home Department (all for Scotland) are housed.

Local Government—both Town and County Councils—is financed by Local taxation (Rates) and by grants from the Central Government.

## BRIGHTER CITIZENS

### SOMETHING TO DO:

1. Give the meaning of: Chairman or Convener of the County; Franchise.
2. Get your teacher to arrange for your class to visit a Town or County Council Meeting. Then prepare a report of the proceedings.
3. Study a local Press account of the last meeting of your Town or County Council Meeting.

## SECTION VIII

### WE ATTEND A POLICE COURT

SCOTSBY has a Police Court to deal with local offenders. The Provost and Bailies (*i.e.* the Magistrates) of Scotsby Town Council here administer the law. They sit on the Police Court "Bench." (See Diagram 6, p. 72.) Magistrates can rely for legal direction on the Clerk of the Court. The Burgh Prosecutor, as his name implies, prosecutes and conducts the case against the accused. In certain large towns, where many cases come before the Police Court, a paid or "Stipendiary" Magistrate with legal qualifications is appointed.

The chief job of a Police Court is to deal with minor offences. Any crime in the first instance may come before a Police Court; the more serious offences are passed on by the Bench to higher courts like the Sheriff Court. A child under eight years of age is deemed by the law to have no criminal responsibility, and cannot be taken to court. Young offenders between the ages of eight and seventeen appear for trial in a Juvenile Court.

If the accused pleads or is found Guilty, the presiding magistrate decides upon the form of punishment. If the accused pleads Not Guilty, then witnesses are called in to give evidence.



# BRIGHTER CITIZENS

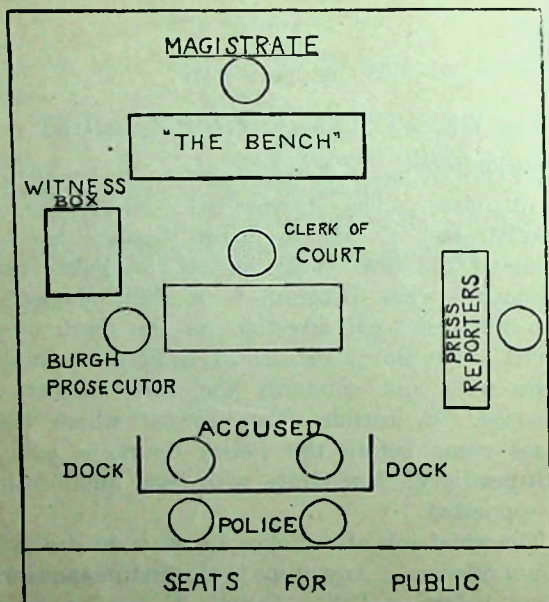


DIAGRAM 6.—SCOTSBY POLICE COURT

There is no jury in a Police or Juvenile Court, and when the case for and against has been stated, the Magistrate gives his verdict, Guilty, or Not Guilty, and, in Scotland, Not Proven. When a person is being tried, no previous convictions against him may be mentioned until it has been decided whether or not he is guilty; such knowledge might prejudice the decision of a magistrate.

## A POLICE COURT

In the following playlets only one magistrate is seated on the Bench. Witnesses are not admitted to the court before they have been called to give their evidence.

## A POLICE COURT

### CHARACTERS

Magistrate, Burgh Prosecutor, Clerk of Court, Press Reporter, Police, 4 Accused Persons, 2 Witnesses.

CASE 1. Wilfred Douglas—accused.

CASE 2. Loudon Drever—accused.

CASE 3. Henry Green—accused.

William Rigg—accused.

John Robertson—1st witness.

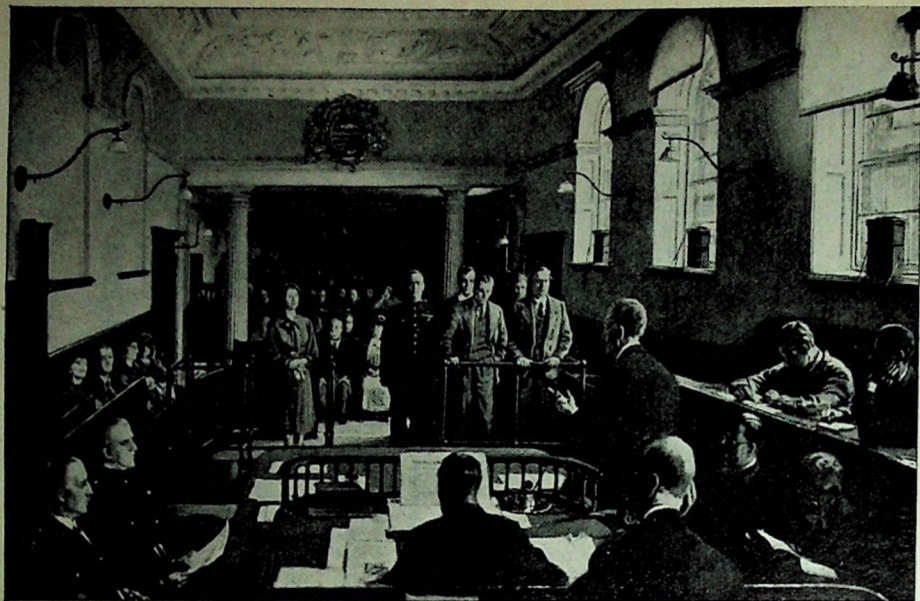
Robin Robertson—2nd witness.

CASE 1: Wilfred Douglas enters, accompanied by a policeman. Douglas stands in the dock and the policeman behind.

MAGISTRATE: The first case on the Roll is against Wilfred Douglas, 16 Bank Lane, Scotsby.

BURGH PROSECUTOR: The charge against this person, Your Honour, is that of the theft of articles to the value of £20. As this case therefore cannot be competently tried in this court I accordingly move that the accused, Wilfred Douglas, be remitted to the Sheriff Court.

MAGISTRATE: The remit is granted. (*To the accused:*) You understand, Douglas, your case will



*From the picture "The Police Court, Beverley." By kind permission of the artist, F. W. Elwell, R.A.*

THE FOUR ACCUSED IN THE DOCK LISTEN WHILE THE GIRL GIVES EVIDENCE. THE MAGISTRATE IS IN THE FOREGROUND ON THE RIGHT OF THE PICTURE AND THE CLERK OF THE COURT BELOW AT THE DESK. A LAWYER QUESTIONS THE WITNESS



A POLICE COURT

be dealt with later on this forenoon at the Sheriff Court?

WILFRED DOUGLAS: Yes, Your Honour.

*(The policeman then removes the accused to the Sheriff Court.)*

CASE 2: Loudon Drever and policeman enter and take up their positions at the dock.

MAGISTRATE: The next case is against Loudon Drever, 4 Lion Crescent, Scotsby.

BURGH PROSECUTOR: The charge in this case, Your Honour, is under Section 15 of the Road Traffic Act—Drunk in charge of a motor vehicle—and I move that the accused be remitted to the Sheriff Court to be dealt with.

MAGISTRATE: The remit is granted. *(To the accused :)* You understand, Drever, your case will be dealt with by the Sheriff later on this forenoon?

LOUDON DREVER: Yes, Your Honour.

*(The accused is removed by policeman.)*

CASE 3: Enter Henry Green and William Rigg, accompanied by two policemen; they take up their positions at the dock.

MAGISTRATE: The third case on the Roll is against Henry Green and William Rigg. You might read the charge, Mr Clerk of Court.



BRIGHTER CITIZENS

CLERK OF COURT: Henry Green, 24 Skylark Road, Scotsby. William Rigg, 7 Swallow Road, Scotsby.

You are charged at the instance of the Complainer (1) that you the said Henry Green did steal a Raleigh Bicycle from the front of a shop at 19 High Street, Scotsby, on 10th March 19—, and (2) on the date and place aforesaid you the said Henry Green and William Rigg did ride a vehicle, namely a pedal bicycle, not constructed or adapted for the carriage of more than one person contrary to the Road Traffic Act, 1930, whereby you are liable to the penalties therein set forth.

MAGISTRATE (*to the accused*): Do you plead Guilty or Not Guilty to these charges?

HENRY GREEN: Not Guilty to the first charge, Your Honour, and Guilty to the second.

WILLIAM RIGG: Guilty, your Honour.

(JOHN ROBERTSON, *the first witness, enters and takes up his place in the witness-box.*)

MAGISTRATE (*to witness*): John Robertson, you might raise your right hand and repeat the following oath phrase by phrase after me: "I swear by Almighty God that I will tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth." (*The witness does so.*)

BURGH PROSECUTOR: John Robertson, how old are you?

JOHN ROBERTSON: Twenty-one, sir.

A POLICE COURT

BURGH PROSECUTOR: Are you the owner of a Raleigh Bicycle, No. 3132?

JOHN ROBERTSON: Yes, sir.

BURGH PROSECUTOR: Did you authorise Henry Green to use your bicycle?

JOHN ROBERTSON: I certainly did not, sir.

(JOHN ROBERTSON *now takes a seat in Court.*  
ROBIN ROBERTSON, *the father of the first witness, is called in next and takes his stance in the witness-box. The oath is administered to him by the Magistrate as above.*)

BURGH PROSECUTOR (*to 2nd witness*): Does your son own a Raleigh Bicycle, No. 3132?

ROBIN ROBERTSON: Yes, sir.

BURGH PROSECUTOR (*to accused in the dock*): Have you any witnesses?

HENRY GREEN: No, sir, but I would like to say that I had once before the use of John Robertson's bicycle, and I assumed when I took the bicycle on 10th March that there would be no objection.

BURGH PROSECUTOR (*to Magistrate*): Your Honour, I consider the case for the prosecution is amply proved and suggest that you bring in a finding accordingly.

MAGISTRATE: There is no doubt from the evidence that you, Henry Green, did steal the bicycle, and that if you previously had the permission of the owner to use the bicycle, that does not allow you to use it as and when you liked. I accordingly find

## BRIGHTER CITIZENS

you Guilty of the charge of stealing the bicycle and fine you the sum of £3 or, failing payment within 8 days, 20 days' imprisonment.

With regard to the second charge, this is a dangerous practice and a common one. I want you to understand clearly that two persons riding on a bicycle not constructed or adapted for carrying more than one person is an offence punishable by law. In this instance, William Green, I shall admonish you.

You, William Rigg, will also be admonished.

*(Accused and witnesses rise and leave the Court.)*

## A JUVENILE COURT

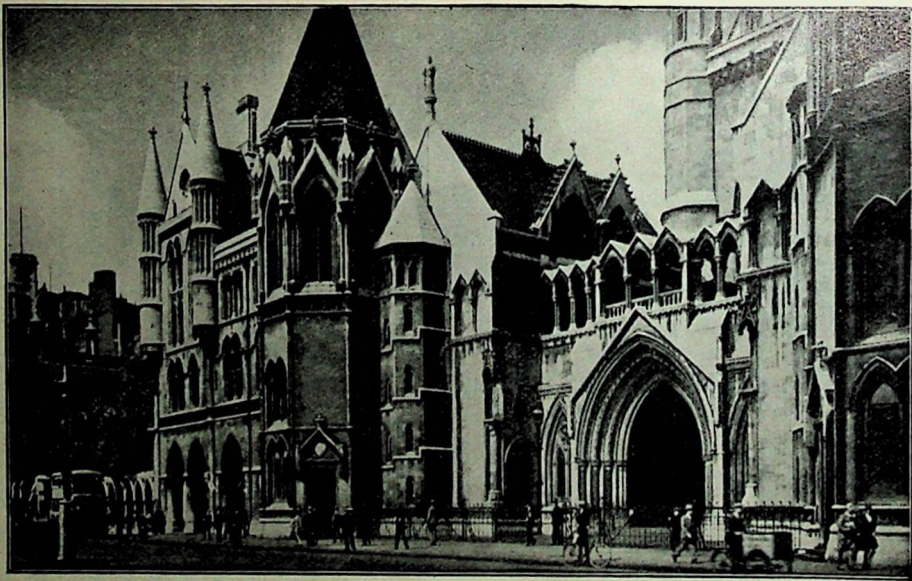
### CHARACTERS

Magistrate, Burgh Prosecutor, Clerk of Court, Probation Officer, Reporter, Police, Accused Boys and their Parents, Witnesses.

CASE 1: Thomas Cross, John Fraser, William Wright and their parents.

CASE 2: Edward Moss and parent; John Lauder and Mrs Glover—witnesses.

*Scene.*—The Committee Room of the Police Buildings. The arrangement is shown in Diagram 7 (p. 80). Behind each of the accused stands his



*Will. F. Taylor*

THE LAW COURTS, STRAND, LONDON



## BRIGHTER CITIZENS

parent or guardian. In the Second Case observe that the oath is not administered to children under the age of 12 years; such witnesses are merely admonished to speak the truth.

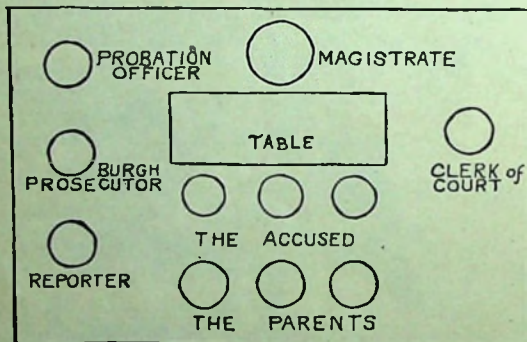


DIAGRAM 7.—SCOTSBY JUVENILE COURT

### CASE 1

**MAGISTRATE:** The first case on the Roll is against Thomas Cross, John Fraser and William Wright. You might read the charge, Mr Clerk of Court.

**CLERK OF COURT:** Thomas Cross, (13) son of and residing with Robert Cross, 6 Myrtle Bank, Scotsby.

John Fraser, (12) son of and residing with Alexander Fraser, 3 Myrtle Bank, Scotsby.

William Wright, (12) son of and residing with Henry Wright, The Burn, Scotsby.

You are charged at the instance of the Complainer

## A JUVENILE COURT

that while acting in concert, (1) on 7th March 19—, you did wilfully and maliciously smash two panes of glass in the Old People's Shelter, Riverside Park, Scotsby, the property of the Town Council of the Burgh of Scotsby; (2) on date and place aforesaid you did deface with a knife a public seat, also the property of the Town Council; (3) on date and place aforesaid you did throw stones at, and thereby damage the notice-board displaying the Burgh By-laws relative to said Riverside Park, and (4) on date and place aforesaid you did open the box containing the lifebuoy, and did take therefrom the rope attached to said lifebuoy and did throw the boat-hook into the river.

MAGISTRATE: Do you admit all these charges?

THOMAS CROSS: Yes, Your Honour.

JOHN FRASER: Yes, Your Honour.

WILLIAM WRIGHT: Yes, Your Honour.

BURGH PROSECUTOR: In this case, Your Honour, the police had been informed that certain boys were doing damage to various articles in Riverside Park, where they immediately proceeded. They discovered the three boys actually throwing the boat-hook mentioned in the Complaint into the water. On being questioned the three boys admitted all four charges. Thomas Cross, Your Honour, has been previously before the Court on a similar charge, when he was admonished.

MAGISTRATE: Have you boys anything to say about your actions?

BRIGHTER CITIZENS

THOMAS CROSS: We were just playing.

MAGISTRATE: Have the parents of the boys anything to say?

PARENT OF THOMAS CROSS: Tommy has only been in trouble once before. He is well behaved at home.

PARENT OF JOHN FRASER: I have given Johnny a good thrashing, and I am sure he won't be back here again.

PARENT OF WILLIAM WRIGHT: Willie is very sorry for what he has done, and won't find himself in trouble again.

MAGISTRATE: I am very sorry to see three boys like you appearing before me. Do you know that, by these actions of yours, your parents as rate-payers are really paying for the damage done by you to public property? You, Thomas Cross, in view of the fact that you have already been before the Court on a similar charge, will be put on probation for a period of one year, under the care of Mr Bertram, Probation Officer, who will keep a watchful eye on you. I must warn you that any further trouble from you will result in your being sent away to an Approved School. For you other two boys, I propose to defer sentence for six months in each case; so make sure that you behave yourselves during that time.

*(Accused and parents leave the Court.)*

A JUVENILE COURT

CASE 2. Enter Edward Moss and parent.

MAGISTRATE: You might read the next charge, Mr Clerk of Court.

CLERK OF COURT: Edward Moss, (13) son of and residing with Thomas Moss at 62 Swallow Road, Scotsby.

You are charged at the instance of the Complainer that on 8th February 19— you did wilfully and maliciously break with a stone, the plate-glass window of the shop at 33 Windmill Street, Scotsby.

MAGISTRATE: Do you admit that charge?

EDWARD MOSS: No, Your Honour.

BURGH PROSECUTOR: Your Honour, the case will require to go to proof, and as all the witnesses are here we will proceed to hear the case.

*(The first witness, JOHN LAUDER, is called in.)*

What age are you, John?

JOHN LAUDER: Eleven, sir.

BURGH PROSECUTOR: Your Honour, you might impress on the witness the need for telling the truth when asked questions.

MAGISTRATE: Now, John, you have heard what the Burgh Prosecutor has said. You understand that when you are asked questions, you must tell the truth?

JOHN LAUDER: Yes, sir.

BURGH PROSECUTOR: John, were you with Edward Moss on 8th February at 33 Windmill Street, Scotsby?



BRIGHTER CITIZENS

JOHN LAUDER: Yes, sir, I was.

BURGH PROSECUTOR: Did you see Edward Moss break the window?

JOHN LAUDER: No, sir, I did not. We were playing there with a ball, but I never saw it strike a window. I wasn't with Edward all the time as I had to go a message for Mother.

BURGH PROSECUTOR: You can sit down, John. (*To a policeman:*) You may bring in the next witness. (*Enter MRS GLOVER.*) What is your age, Mrs Glover?

MRS GLOVER: Twenty-five, sir.

MAGISTRATE: Hold up your right hand, and repeat after me: I swear to tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth. (*MRS GLOVER takes the oath.*)

BURGH PROSECUTOR: Mrs Glover, I understand you were walking along Windmill Street on 8th February about 4.30 p.m., and saw Edward Moss there.

MRS GLOVER: That's right, sir.

BURGH PROSECUTOR: What was Edward Moss doing?

MRS GLOVER: He was playing with a ball at the time I passed, and shortly after I heard the noise of glass breaking. I could not say, however, that it was Edward Moss who did it.

BURGH PROSECUTOR: Are you sure it was a ball he was playing with?

MRS GLOVER: Yes. I saw it bouncing along the street.

## A JUVENILE COURT

BURGH PROSECUTOR: Your Honour, in view of the evidence which we have had, I do not intend to proceed with this charge.

MAGISTRATE: I think this is a very proper decision of the Burgh Prosecutor, and I have little hesitation in reaching a finding of Not Guilty. The evidence is such that nobody saw the window being broken, although this boy, being the only person near the shop at that time, was naturally suspected. However, it has not been proved that he broke the window. (*To EDWARD MOSS:*) You may go home now.

*(EDWARD MOSS and two witnesses leave the Court.)*

### SOMETHING TO DO:

Give the meaning of: Prosecution; Plead; Jury; Verdict; Approved School; Remand Home; Roll; Dock; Complainer; Proof; Probation Officer; Acting in concert.



PARLIAMENT HOUSE, EDINBURGH, THE SEAT OF THE  
SCOTTISH COURTS OF LAW

## COURTS OF LAW

### CIVIL AND CRIMINAL COURTS

LEGAL disputes and breaches of law fall into two broad classes. All legal actions are heard in either Civil or Criminal Courts.

A dispute between two parties, for example over a will, the payment of a debt, or the ownership of land, where neither party has broken the law, is settled according to Civil Law practice, and heard in a Civil Court. In a criminal offence, for example murder, assault or robbery, it is nearly always the duty of the State, through its law officers, to bring the accused party to trial in a Criminal Court.

## COURTS OF LAW

England and Scotland maintain separate Courts of Law, and legal practice differs in some important respects in the two countries.

ENGLAND AND WALES.—Civil Courts range from the County Courts to the Supreme Court of Justice, while the House of Lords constitutes the final Court of Appeal. Criminal Courts range from the Petty and Quarter Sessions to the Assizes and Court of Criminal Appeal. The House of Lords is the final Court of Appeal.

In Northern Ireland the supreme courts are the High Court of Justice and the Court of Appeal. Lesser courts are the Quarter Sessions, County Courts and Magistrates' Courts. There is a final appeal to the House of Lords.

SCOTLAND.—Civil Courts are the Justice of the Peace Court, the Sheriff Court and the Court of Session. The House of Lords is the final Appeal Court in Civil Cases. Criminal Courts are the Police Court, the Sheriff Court and the High Court of Justiciary. Three judges of the last-named court constitute the Court of Criminal Appeal, and there is no further appeal.

By law persons accused of offences are presumed to be innocent until they are tried, when they are found either "Guilty" or "Not Guilty." In serious cases an accused person is tried by a jury of fellow-citizens before a judge, and it is this jury which brings in the verdict.





procedure is somewhat different, where, for example, in a criminal trial there are fifteen jurors; in civil trials, on the other hand, there are twelve jurors in the Court of Session, and seven in the Sheriff Court. A majority of jurors in Scotland may return a verdict. Moreover, in Scotland a third verdict—"Not proven"—can be returned, permitting the acquittal of the accused, who cannot be again tried for the same offence.

In both England and Scotland, relatively trivial offences are dealt with "summarily"—that is, by a procedure before Justices, Magistrates, and also (in Scotland) Sheriffs. Summary procedure is quite informal, and there is no jury present.

## SECTION IX

### WE GO TO PARLIAMENT

GREAT BRITAIN and Northern Ireland are divided into areas called "Constituencies," which choose Members of Parliament, most of whom support the Conservative, the Labour, or the Liberal Party. Constituencies vary greatly in area though each contains roughly the same number of voters.

The Houses of Parliament are situated in London. They are the House of Commons and the House of Lords. Both Houses are in the same building, and are connected with one another. All British subjects over 21 years of age are responsible for the election by secret ballot of the 640 members of the House of Commons. Membership of the House of Lords is based mainly on hereditary rights; some members have been made peers in their own lifetime. The House of Lords has over 700 members and this number, which varies, includes dukes, earls, marquesses, viscounts and barons. "Lords Spiritual" from the Church of England and certain high judges or "Law Lords" are the only life members. It is presided over by the Lord Chancellor. For every new Parliament the Scottish peers choose 16 of their number to represent them in the House of Lords.

The House of Commons, known as "the Mother

## WE GO TO PARLIAMENT



DIAGRAM 8.—PARLIAMENTARY MAP OF THE UNITED KINGDOM

of Parliaments," is by far the more important of the two Houses. The House of Commons partly resembles a large Debating Society where important problems of the day are discussed; but it is more than a debating assembly however, as it has duties to carry out in the governing of the country. Majority rule prevails. The political party or coalition of parties with the largest number of M.P.s becomes



the "Government"; the minority is called the "Opposition." The leader of the Government party is called the "Prime Minister." To the high offices in the Government he appoints Ministers and from them he chooses about 20 to be members of the Cabinet. It is hardly an exaggeration to say that the Cabinet is the real Government of Britain. The Cabinet, collectively responsible for the general policy of the Government, reaches its decisions at private meetings. One main duty of Parliament is to accept, reject, or alter these Cabinet plans; an adverse vote in the Commons on some vital Government proposal can force the Government to resign. Ministers in charge of Government Departments are helped by thousands of permanent officials known as Civil Servants. Whitehall is the centre of Government Departments in London. (See Diagram 9.)

Opposite is a list of the principal peace-time Ministers, their departments and duties.

The people of Britain provide the money to meet the cost of local and of central government. Rates, based on the rent at which a house is assessed, are paid to local authorities such as Town or County Councils. To the central government in London taxes are paid; these taxes may be paid directly, as in the case of Income Tax, or indirectly, as in the case of customs duties on sugar, tea, tobacco, and other articles.

Now let us imagine that we are Members of Parliament and that we are assembling in the House

# WE GO TO PARLIAMENT

MINISTER IN CHARGE	DEPARTMENT	CHIEF WORK OF DEPARTMENT
1. The Prime Minister.	HEAD OF THE GOVERNMENT.	
2. Chancellor of the Exchequer.	The Treasury.	Looks after taxation and expenditure.
3. The Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.	The Foreign Office.	Relations between the United Kingdom and foreign countries.
4. The Secretary of State for Home Affairs.	The Home Office.	Peace and order in the U.K.
5. The Secretary of State for the Dominions.	The Dominions Office	Relations between the U.K. and Dominions.
6. The Secretary of State for India.	The India Office.	Affairs concerning India generally.
7. The Secretary of State for the Colonies.	The Colonial Office.	All affairs relating to the Colonial Empire.
8. The Secretary of State for Scotland.	The Scottish Office.	Matters of special concern to Scotland.
9. First Lord of the Admiralty.	The Board of Admiralty.	Controls the Royal Navy.
10. The Secretary of State for War.	The War Office.	Controls the Army.
11. The Secretary of State for Air.	The Air Ministry.	Controls the Royal Air Force.
12. The Minister of Labour.	Ministry of Labour.	Problems of Labour and Labour disputes.
13. The Minister of Agriculture.	Ministry of Agriculture.	Administers laws concerning farming, fishing, etc.
14. The Minister of Education.	Ministry of Education.	Maintains efficiency of National Education.
15. President of Board of Trade.	Board of Trade.	Help and advice for trade and commerce.
16. The Postmaster-General.	The Post Office.	Postal, telegraph, and telephone services.
17. Minister of Health.	The Ministry of Health.	Looks after national health services and housing.
18. Minister of Transport.	Ministry of Transport.	Attends to maintenance and problems of all forms of transport.
19. Minister of Fuel and Power.	Ministry of Fuel and Power.	Supply of coal, petroleum, and power.
20. Minister of Civil Aviation.	Ministry of Civil Aviation.	Civil Air Transport.

of Commons. (See Diagram 10.) The Speaker, the chairman of the House, has already entered,

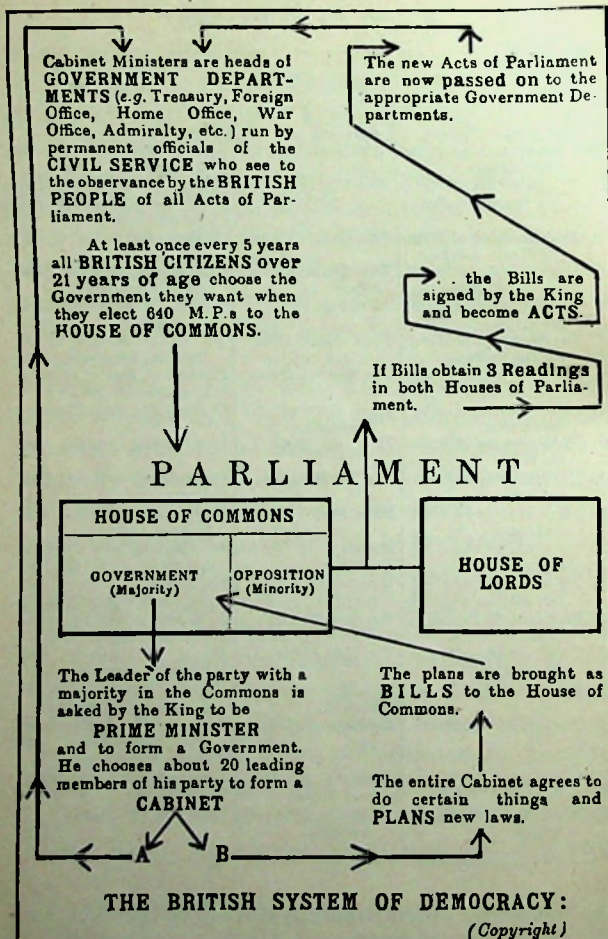


DIAGRAM 9.—GREAT BRITAIN'S FORM OF DEMOCRACY

## WE GO TO PARLIAMENT

preceded by his Messenger and the Serjeant-at-arms who carries the Mace, the symbol of authority; the Speaker is followed by his Chaplain and his Secretary. When the Speaker has taken his place, the Chaplain starts the day's business by saying prayers. Entering the Chamber we bow to the Speaker as we pass the "Bar," a line on the floor which marks the official entrance. During debates we may keep our hats on except when standing to speak; should any of us defy the Speaker's orders it is the duty of the Serjeant-at-arms to remove us from the House. At the Table are seated three expert lawyers, "the Clerks at the Table." Government supporters sit on the right of the Speaker and Opposition members on the left. Each of us carries an "Order Paper," or large agenda, on which are printed questions addressed by M.P.s to different Ministers of State. The House devotes an hour to Question Time and then proceeds to introduce or to debate New Bills.

Generally it is a Minister who brings in a Bill. In the following scenes the Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of War Transport is introducing the "Road Transport Lighting (Cycles) Bill," on behalf of Lord Leathers, Minister of War Transport, a Member of the House of Lords. (Actually this Bill was first introduced in the Lords; here it is represented as passing in the usual manner from the Commons to the Lords.)



## BRIGHTER CITIZENS

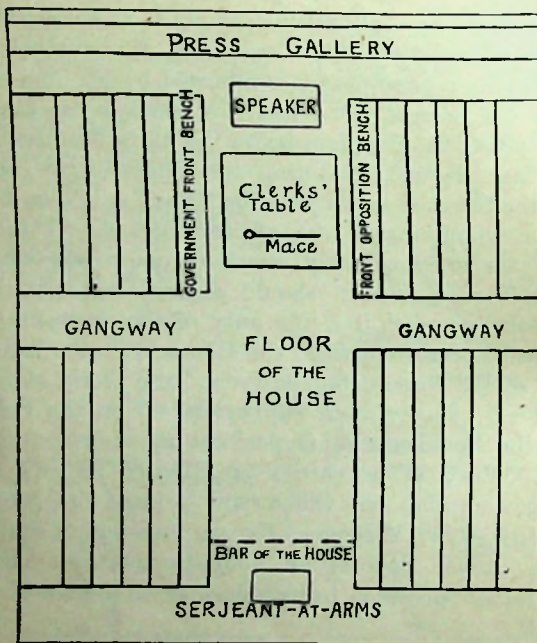


DIAGRAM 10.—THE HOUSE OF COMMONS

### CHARACTERS

*The Speaker, the Serjeant-at-arms, 3 Clerks of the Table, and a number of M.P.s, including the following (the majority of whom are seated on the Government benches): the Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Transport, Mr Noel-Baker; Sir Robert*

## WE GO TO PARLIAMENT

Bird; Sir Herbert Williams; *the Attorney-General*, Sir Donald Somervell; Mr Alexander Walkden; Rear-Admiral Beamish; Mr Edmund Harvey; Lieutenant-Colonel Marlowe; Mr Driberg; Sir Geoffrey Hutchinson; Mr Viant; Mr Kirkwood.

No Member of Parliament may be referred to during a Debate by his personal name, but after the following style: "the Right Honourable Gentleman" (Cabinet rank); "the honourable Member for Dumbarton" (an ordinary Member); "the hon. and gallant Member for Brighton" (a member of the Fighting Forces).

[*The Speaker and Clerks wear wigs and gowns. A pointer may serve as a Mace.*]

### SCENE 1. THE HOUSE OF COMMONS

(MR NOEL-BAKER, *the Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Transport*, carrying a sheet of paper on which the name of the Bill is written, leaves his seat on the Government Front Bench and proceeds to the Bar of the House where he faces the Speaker.)

MR SPEAKER: Mr Noel-Baker.

MR NOEL-BAKER: A Road Transport Lighting (Cycles) Bill, sir.

MR SPEAKER: Bring it up.

(*The member approaches the Clerks' table and gives the dummy Bill to a Clerk of the Table.*)

MR SPEAKER: Who are prepared to bring in the Bill?

## BRIGHTER CITIZENS

MR NOEL-BAKER: The Home Secretary, the Secretary of State for Scotland, the Minister of Health, the Minister of War Transport and myself.

A CLERK (*reads*): "Road Transport Lighting (Cycles) Bill."

MR SPEAKER: The Question is that the Bill be now read for a first time. As many as be of that opinion, say "Aye," the contrary, "No." (*After a brief pause:*) I think the "Ayes" have it. The Ayes have it.

*(The first reading of the Bill, which is a sheer formality, is over. The House now proceeds to other business. Later the full text of the new Bill is printed, and copies are issued to all Members of Parliament.)*

### SCENE 2. THE HOUSE OF COMMONS

*As above—some time later*

CLERK: "The Road Transport Lighting (Cycles) Bill." Second Reading.

THE PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY TO THE MINISTRY OF WAR TRANSPORT (Mr Noel-Baker): Mr Speaker, sir. I beg to move, "That the Bill be now read a Second time."

*(Bills introduced by the Government do not require to be seconded.)*

The purpose of this Bill is to promote safety on the roads and that is why the Government have asked Parliament to approve it. Before the war

pedal cycles had to carry either a red rear-light or, if they preferred it, a red reflector and a white patch. During the war, because of the conditions of the blackout, cyclists have been required to carry a red rear-light.

Clause 1 of the Bill obliges pedal cyclists to carry a red rear-light in future, after the war-time obligation has lapsed. It does so by repealing the provisions of the Road Transport Lighting Act, 1927, and of the Road Traffic Act, 1934, which relieved the cyclist of the obligation to carry a light if he carried a reflector and a white patch instead. This first clause, the most important in the Bill, will come into immediate effect if and when the Bill becomes law.

Clause 2 provides that a cyclist must carry a red reflector and a white patch as well. This is for greater safety in case the rear-light should fail.

Clause 3 provides that no rear-light need be shown if the vehicle is stationary in the road (owing to traffic signals or other similar cause), provided that the cycle is as near as possible to the left-hand edge of the carriage-way. That is because many dynamo lighting sets have no batteries which keep the light burning when the cycle is at a standstill. The Bill does not alter the provision of the Act of 1927 that, if the cyclist's lights should altogether fail, he may wheel his bicycle without lights along the left-hand edge of the road.

That is the Bill. The Government believe that



the case for it rests on the lessons of experience and of common sense. I think I can best establish the case by answering objections which have been brought against it in recent times. We have been accused of rushing the Bill through without proper consultation with the people who are principally concerned. Frankly, the cyclists have told us everything they have to tell us long ago. This is not a new issue. It has been submitted to expert and impartial examination three times in the last seven or eight years and all organisations favoured the proposals of this Bill. A deputation of cyclists objected that it is difficult to find a satisfactory rear-light. But there are now cheap and efficient battery sets, and more than one type of dynamo set. Before the war rear-lights were compulsory in Italy, France, Belgium and Holland.

SIR ROBERT BIRD (Wolverhampton, West): Can the hon. Gentleman say in regard to Holland whether the white strip and the red reflector are in operation?

MR NOEL-BAKER: I cannot answer now, but I can give my hon. Friend the answer a little later in the Debate.

SIR R. BIRD: It has a great bearing on the case.

MR NOEL-BAKER: I think not. There must have been an efficient rear-light in Holland or else the provision would not have been tolerated because the cyclists form the great majority of the electorate. I think that a rear-light, because it can be seen much

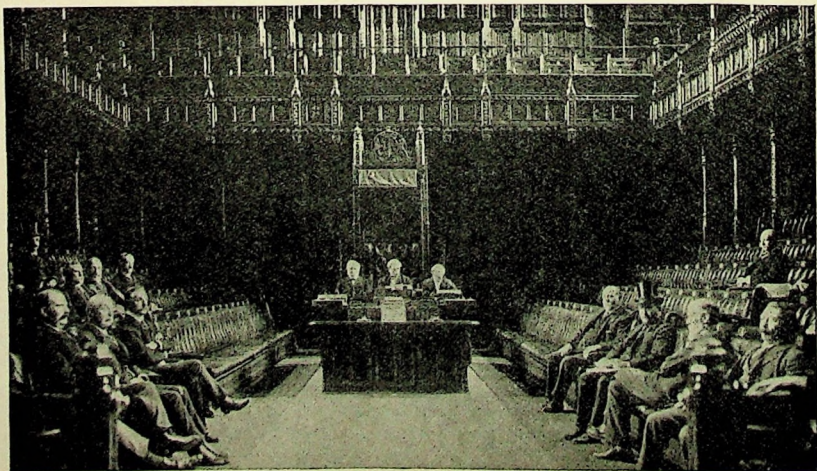
farther off than a reflector at night, will cause motorists to slacken speed sooner. If a motorist who has collided at night with a cyclist alleges as part of his defence that the cyclist's rear-lamp was not alight, the onus will fall on the motorist to prove to the court's satisfaction that that was the case.

SIR HERBERT WILLIAMS (Croydon, South): Mr Speaker, sir. I beg to move to leave out "now" and at the end of the Question to add "upon this day six months."

*(This is the Parliamentary form of the Direct Negative to the Government Bill and does not require a seconder. The effect on the motion would be to make it read: "That the Bill be read a Second time upon this day six months.")*

I regard this as a most reactionary Bill. The war-time obligation on the cyclist to have a red rear-light was due to the masking of headlights. The real basic problem is that the cyclist has not got an eye in his back. He does not know whether his rear-light is on or not. It is obvious that the cyclist will suffer in legal proceedings if, after this Measure, his rear-light is out and an accident occurs.

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL (Sir Donald Somervell): In my opinion, if there is an accident, and an action is brought against a motorist, and the motorist alleges that the bicycle rear-lamp was out, the onus is on him to prove that fact, and not on the cyclist.



AN UNUSUAL PHOTOGRAPH OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS IN COMMITTEE (1903). COMPARE WITH DIAGRAM 10. THE NEW CHAMBER, TO REPLACE THE OLD ONE DESTROYED BY BOMBS IN THE WAR, WILL BE BUILT ON SIMILAR LINES

MR ALEXANDER WALKDEN (Bristol, South): Mr Speaker, sir. I have been asked by my party to support the Second Reading of this Bill and, as an old cyclist, I do so with great pleasure. I began cycling on an old boneshaker long ago. When the "penny-farthing" machine came I got on that, and soon came off again. Later we got the safety bicycle, made of steel, which was terribly heavy and had solid tyres; riding on it was like holding down a road-breaking drill. Then we had the cushion-tired machine and then the modern pneumatic bicycle. Perhaps there are now 10,000,000 cyclists in the country. But to-day I am concerned for other people who have to get their living on the roads, the working motor-drivers, and for them I am asked to plead. I am concerned, not merely for the safety of the cyclist so that he should not get run over, but for the driver or working motorist, in order that he should not run somebody down, and suffer mental pain and agony over what happens. We should help both. Therefore, we think the white patch and red reflector are not sufficient, and that the red light should be continued. We should do everything possible to pass this Bill which our friend the hon. Member for South Croydon (Sir H. Williams) has been trying to obstruct.

REAR-ADMIRAL BEAMISH (Lewes): Mr Speaker, sir. Cyclists ought in their own interests to realise that the Bill before us is in order to help them to save their lives and lessen the anxieties of other



people who use the roads. I, therefore, wish to support the Bill.

MR EDMUND HARVEY (Combined English Universities): Mr Speaker, sir. The House always listens with respect to the hon. and gallant Member for Lewes (Rear-Admiral Beamish), but I would oppose the Bill for this reason. As every cyclist knows, when you have a rear-light and are cycling in the dark, and you have to look round to see if the light of your rear-lamp is still burning, you incur not only the danger of collision, but the danger of a sudden skid on a frosty road.

LIEUT. - COLONEL MARLOWE (Brighton): Mr Speaker, sir. It will not be much comfort to the widow of an unfortunate cyclist who is killed to know that her husband died in the name of liberty because he did not carry a rear-lamp. His epitaph might be that of the jay-walker:

"Here lies the body of Andrew Jay,  
Who died maintaining his right of way.  
He was right, dead right, as he walked along,  
But he's just as dead as if he'd been wrong."

SIR ROBERT BIRD (Wolverhampton, West): Have the great trade unions been consulted? This is a matter which affects them very considerably.

MR A. WALKDEN (Bristol, South): The principal union of the transport workers is very concerned that the Bill shall be passed because they do not like running over cyclists.

MR DRIBERG (Maldon): Mr Speaker, sir. In the

course of the Debate it has seemed to me that the Parliamentary Secretary succeeded in answering in advance most of the points that were made by the hon. Member for South Croydon (Sir H. Williams) and his friends. To my mind, there is one important small point which has not yet been mentioned. The maximum danger-point for accidents is when you are in a car and another car is approaching you with headlights in your eyes. You perhaps dim your lights, and the other car may or may not dim its lights. Then there is a moment of almost complete blackout through which you cannot see what is on the road ahead. If a cyclist is there it is extraordinarily difficult to see him if he has only a reflector, and I am convinced that in such a situation a good rear-lamp provides an extra safeguard for the cyclist. For this and other reasons I shall, if there is a Division, vote for the Government.

MR GEOFFREY HUTCHINSON (Ilford): Mr Speaker, sir. I suggest that when a Bill of this nature comes up for decision the Government should take the House of Commons into their confidence. The Government should call off the Whips and let us decide the issue for ourselves.

MR VIAN (Willesden, West): Mr Speaker, sir. I regret that I have not been able to be here to hear the majority of the speeches, but I have been engaged on other business. I share the view expressed by the hon. and learned Member for

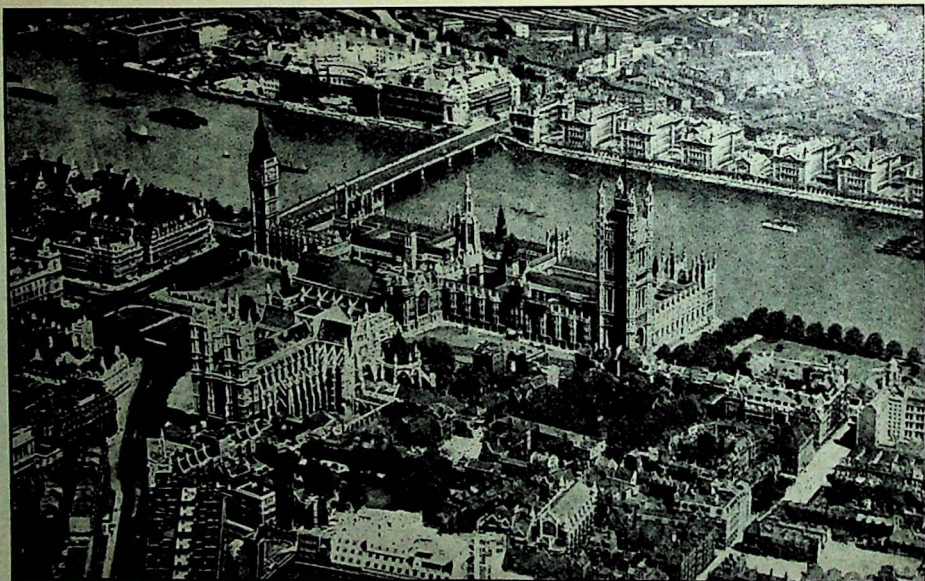
Ilford (Mr G. Hutchinson) in so far as I regret that the Government is making this a matter of confidence in the sense that their supporters will be expected to vote in support of the Bill irrespective of its merits. If it is essential for a red light to be used by the motorist or the cyclist for safety purposes, according to the logic of this Bill, then the pedestrian should also carry a red light. If it is not desired to go to that extreme, I think the Bill should be withdrawn.

MR NOEL-BAKER: Mr Speaker, sir. We have had a very agreeable Debate and I hope the result will be to carry this Measure. Some Members think that dynamos for cycles are unsatisfactory. A well-known firm assures me that, "When the dynamo is being pedalled at two miles per hour there is a visible light; at three miles per hour there is ample illumination." On the expense of the dynamo or battery for the cyclist's rear-lamp, of course it will cost something, but then the cyclist gets the use of admirable roads and he pays no tax. My hon. Friend the Member for West Willesden (Mr Viant) says that if the cyclist has a light the pedestrian must have one too. I do not think that that can be maintained. The pedestrian is not a vehicle.

MR KIRKWOOD (Dumbarton Burghs): Neither is the cyclist a vehicle.

MR NOEL-BAKER: He is on one; and it is the vehicle that has to have the light. Mr Speaker, sir,





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THE HEART OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE: HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT AND WESTMINSTER ABBEY, LONDON



## BRIGHTER CITIZENS

it is because the Government believe that this Bill will save life and injury that we ask the House to give the Bill its Second Reading.

MR SPEAKER: The original Question was that this Bill be now read a Second time, since when an Amendment has been moved to leave out "now," and to add "this day six months." The Question I have to put is: "That the word 'now' stand part of the Question." As many as be of that opinion say "Aye"; the contrary, "No."

*(Members call out "Aye" or "No".)*

MR SPEAKER: I think the "Ayes" have it. (Several members call out: "The Noes have it.") Clear the Lobbies.

Mr Speaker resumes his seat. Now that he has ordered a vote, Division bells are rung in all parts of the Palace of Westminster to inform members not actually in the House of Commons at the time that a Division is about to take place. The Party Whips collect their supporters from Dining and Smoke rooms and, if need be, from Committee rooms. Meanwhile, Mr Speaker, by means of a sandglass, times the two minutes before the taking of the Division. Tellers are appointed on either side, two for the Government and two for the Opposition. At the expiry of two minutes Mr Speaker rises and again puts the Question that the word "now" stand part of the Question, calling on

## WE GO TO PARLIAMENT

members of that opinion to say "Aye" and the contrary "No." On gathering the voices, Mr Speaker declares that he thinks that the "Ayes" have it.

Should the "Noes" persist in challenging, Mr Speaker directs members as follows: "'Ayes' to the right; 'Noes' to the left. Tellers for the 'Ayes': Major A. Young and Mr Buchan-Hepburn. Tellers for the 'Noes': Mr E. Walkden and Sir H. Williams."

The four tellers proceed to the entrances of the Division lobbies, a Government and an Opposition teller taking up their places at each lobby exit. The two lobby doors are unlocked. The "Ayes" and the "Noes" file through, while the tellers count and check the names, which are recorded by the clerks.

After the expiry of six minutes Mr Speaker rises in his place and gives the order: "Lock the doors." Doors leading into the lobbies are immediately locked so that no Member may now participate in the Division.

When all Members have passed through the lobbies, the tellers return to the Chamber and compare their figures, and the teller on the majority side announces the figures privately to the Clerk of the Table. The clerk writes the figures on a paper which he hands to the winning teller. The four tellers then line up two paces from the end of the table, bow to Mr Speaker, advance two paces and

bow again. The winning teller announces the result as follows: "The 'Ayes' to the right were 132; the 'Noes' to the left were 24." He hands the paper to the clerk. All four tellers then return to their respective places. The clerk hands the paper to Mr Speaker, who announces the result to the House as follows: "The 'Ayes' to the right were 132; the 'Noes' to the left were 24; so the 'Ayes' have it."

The Bill has accordingly secured its Second Reading. Before proceeding to its next business, the Bill is committed by the Commons to a Committee of the whole House upon Thursday next.

*(A full report of the Debate will soon appear in Hansard, the record of the debates and proceedings in Parliament, printed and published by H.M. Stationery Office.)*

### SCENE 3. THE HOUSE OF COMMONS SIX DAYS LATER

The "Road Transport Lighting (Cycles) Bill" is now at its Committee Stage. Bills are sometimes referred to a Standing Committee (consisting of from 40 to 85 M.P.s), which sits in a committee-room upstairs. The present Bill is regarded as of sufficient importance by the Government to be considered by the whole House, which for this purpose has resolved itself into a committee. Members go through the Bill line by line and clause

## WE GO TO PARLIAMENT

by clause; amendments are moved and debated, rejected or accepted, and each clause is voted upon.

### SCENE 4. THE HOUSE OF COMMONS

The "Road Transport Lighting (Cycles) Bill" now returns to the House for a "Report and Third Reading"; the Speaker keeps a watchful eye to see that there is not mere repetition of the debates in Committee.

### SCENE 5. BOTH HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT

The Bill is now inscribed with an ancient Norman French sentence which means "Let it be delivered to the Lords." A Clerk of the House conveys the Bill to the House of Lords, where it goes through the same process as it did in the House of Commons—though usually in a much shorter space of time. The Bill then returns to the Commons; on the document is now inscribed in Norman French: "To this Bill with Amendments the Lords have agreed." The Lords' amendments are considered by the Commons and may be accepted; the wishes of the Commons must in the long run be accepted.

### SCENE 6. HOUSE OF LORDS A FORTNIGHT LATER

Before the "Bill" becomes an "Act" it must receive the Royal Assent.

"Black Rod" (the servant and messenger of the



Lords), carrying an ebony wand, walks through the lobbies to the Commons where a debate is in progress. On hearing the cry, "Make way for 'Black Rod'!" the Serjeant-at-arms asks: "Who's there?" "Black Rod" comes the answer. The door of the Commons is opened and "Black Rod" enters, bows respectfully to the Speaker, and at the Bar delivers his message: "I am commanded by the Lords to desire the attendance of this Honourable House to hear the Royal Assent to certain Bills." Headed by the Serjeant-at-arms (bearing the Mace) and the Speaker, as many Members of the Commons as feel inclined proceed to the Bar of the House of Lords. Seated in a row on the Woolsack (the chairman's seat in the Lords) are three Lords Commissioners representing the King, and dressed in robes, wigs and little three-cornered hats. The Clerk of the Crown reads the titles of the Bills—the "Road Transport Lighting (Cycles) Bill" is one of the number—and to each the Commissioners lift their hats while another clerk replies: "Le Roi le veult" ("The King wills it"). The Bill has now become an Act, or Law, and will be put on the Statute Book. The procession returns to the Commons. The Members who stayed behind rise to their feet and, after bowing thrice to the empty chair, the Speaker returns to his place, and informs the House of what has happened. The interruption is now over and the Member who was last addressing the House resumes his speech where he had left off.

## WE GO TO PARLIAMENT

8 2. 9 GEO. 6.

*Road Transport Lighting  
(Cycles) Act, 1945.*

CH. 8



### CHAPTER 8.

An Act to make obligatory the carrying by bicycles and tricycles not propelled by mechanical power of rear lamps, red reflectors and white surfaces during the hours of darkness, and to relax temporarily, as respects such vehicles when stationary owing to the exigencies of the traffic or in order to comply with any traffic signal or direction, the obligation to show lights.

[7th March 1945.]

**B**E it enacted by the King's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—

*H.M. Stationery Office*

### OFFICIAL TITLE OF ROAD TRANSPORT LIGHTING (CYCLES) ACT

#### SOMETHING TO DO:

Give the meaning of the following: Constituency; Coalition; Civil Service; Cabinet; Mace; Order Papers; Speaker; Lord Chancellor; Bill; Act; Statute Book; Division Lobby; Question; Teller; Serjeant-at-arms; Black Rod; Woolsack; Whips; Scottish Grand Committee; Hansard; Whitehall.

## SECTION X

### THE BRITISH COMMONWEALTH AND EMPIRE

THE British Commonwealth and Empire is a vast and complex organisation whose territories are scattered round the globe in every continent and in every ocean. It comprises about a quarter of the land surface of the earth; and its 550 million inhabitants—a quarter of the world's population—include races speaking many different languages, and professing most diverse religious beliefs.

In each of the Dominions, except Eire, the King is represented by a Governor-General, who is usually appointed on the advice of the King's Ministers in the Dominions. The Government of the United Kingdom has no power to interfere in the affairs of a Dominion. Unlike the United Kingdom, the Dominions each have a written Constitution by which the powers of their governments are clearly defined. There is no Constitution common to the Empire and Commonwealth as one whole, political organisation.

*(The remainder of this section should be read in conjunction with the Chart opposite; the paragraphs are numbered in reference to the figures on the chart.)*

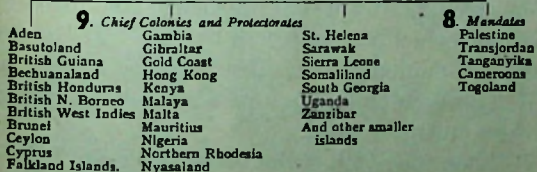
# THE BRITISH COMMONWEALTH AND EMPIRE.

H.M. THE KING

MOTHERLAND AND DOMINIONS.



BRITISH COLONIAL EMPIRE



The figures shown in the above Chart relate to the corresponding paragraphs in this Section.



## BRIGHTER CITIZENS

(1) The United Kingdom and the King's Dominions are full Member States of the British Commonwealth of Nations, and all are equal in status and in no way subordinate to one another.

(2) The position of Eire is difficult to define. At present Eire is less closely associated with the British Commonwealth than any other of the Dominions.

(3) British India has a Central Government of its own and a Viceroy, responsible to the U.K. Government. The Indian States, ruled by Native Princes, have treaties with the British Crown. Dominion status is Britain's goal for India.

(4) Newfoundland is really a Dominion, but for the time being and at her own request she is governed by a U.K. Commission.

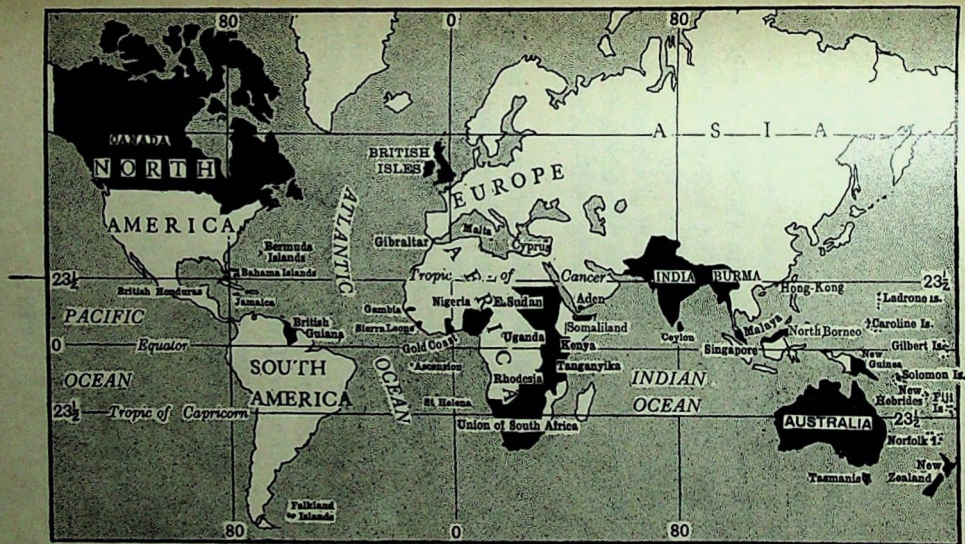
(5) Southern Rhodesia is practically self-governing; its relations with other countries are directed by the U.K. Government.

(6) Before the Japanese invasion, Burma was self-governing except for Defence and Foreign Relations, which were directed by the U.K. Government. Dominion status is Britain's goal for Burma.

(7) The Condominiums are administered jointly by the countries named.

(8) About one-fifth of the British Colonial Empire is administered under Mandate from the League of Nations; Australia, New Zealand and South Africa share in this task.

(9) In each Colony there is a Governor who



THE BRITISH EMPIRE IS SHOWN IN BLACK. WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE CONTINENTS AND OCEANS, THE NAMES OF THE BRITISH POSSESSIONS ALONE ARE GIVEN

represents the King. Generally laws are passed by a Legislature some of whose members are elected by the people of the Colony, and others nominated by the Governor. The Governor is assisted in administration by a body of officials, most of them locally born.

The aim of British Policy in the Colonies is to train the peoples in the art of self-government. Until self-government is reached the people of Britain, through Parliament, remain ultimately responsible for the government of the whole Colonial Empire. Two Colonies nearing self-government are Ceylon and Malta.

There is no large-scale white settlement in the Colonies. In British Colonial Africa, out of 42 million people, under 60,000 are white. Practically, the whole of the defence of the Colonies during peace and war is paid for by the taxpayer in Britain. Money raised from taxation in the Colonies is spent on the peoples themselves. The trade of the Colonies is not reserved for Britain. Before the war the Colonies took only about a quarter of their imports from Britain. In 1938 the Colonies sent about a third of their exports to Britain.

Freedom of religion exists in all parts of the British Colonial Empire.



## COMMONWEALTH AND EMPIRE

### UNITED NATIONS ORGANISATION

The United Nations—a new Organisation of World States—came into being at San Francisco, U.S.A., in June 1945. Delegates of fifty nations, including China, The Soviet Union, Great Britain, and the United States of America, signed a World Security Charter, pledging themselves to live in peace, and to use their power not to wage war, but to prevent it. The founding of this new international body, it is hoped, will represent a lasting triumph of the Democratic way of government and life over Dictatorship.

#### SOMETHING TO DO:

1. Find in an atlas all the places listed in the Chart (p. 115).
2. Give the meaning of: Colony; Dominion; Condominium; Legislature; Administration; Mandate; Constitution; Democracy; Dictatorship; Delegate; Charter.



## SECTION XI

### SOME ADVICE FOR THE JUNIOR CITIZEN

**A**N able and successful man, who had worked hard all his life building up a prosperous business, died. He had three sons. To the eldest he left the business. This young man was of an easy-going and happy-go-lucky nature. He failed to appreciate the energy and care which his father had applied to the business. Because of his neglect and lack of foresight this fine inheritance rapidly dwindled and its trade decreased.

The second son, who next took charge of it, suffered from a lack of confidence and, also, from a belief that the "old ways" could equally well apply to the new conditions of work and living. He made no changes in the business and, as a result, it again failed to attract new customers, and continued to dwindle still further.

The youngest son was progressive and active. Remembering the great success of the business in his father's time, he studied how he could best revive and develop it. He took pains to learn about the changing world in which he had to live and work. He took every care to bring his business into line with modern conditions, knowing that only by doing so could he succeed. He did succeed,

## SOME ADVICE FOR THE JUNIOR CITIZEN

and he raised the business to a higher level than it had reached in its best days in the past.

The citizens of this country of ours have a great and historic inheritance. Young citizens may adopt one or another of the attitudes of the three sons in our story.

Like the first son, they may accept our democratic way of life and government merely as a matter of course. On the other hand, like the second son, they may argue and believe that, because the Past was successful, so the Future will also be secure.

The welfare and the future of our country rest upon the shoulders of the young people who will think and act like the youngest and progressive son. They must grapple with questions which did not arise in the time of their ancestors. They will not hasten to make sweeping reforms without good cause, but they will also know that Democracy for them is a progressive way of life, opening up fresh ideas for their consideration.

It may not be destined for many of us to leave our names in the history of the future (though we should not be too sure of this), but, none the less, the character of a nation depends upon the character and deeds of every citizen in it, however humble. The fortunes of a nation depend largely upon its character.

Thus we see that each and every one of us, however lowly our station, has a hand in shaping

## BRIGHTER CITIZENS

the future. We realise how noble a burden of duty is laid upon our shoulders, to play manfully our part, as our fathers have done before us. And so, in times of doubt and distress, if we keep always in view the Christian way of life, together with the high ideals of freedom and fair dealing, we shall surely maintain the great inheritance that has been passed down to us by our fathers. We shall also learn that this inheritance can be subject to change — sometimes slow, sometimes rapid — but change always in accordance with the “will of the people.” In other words, all active and intelligent citizens will ensure that the Progressive and Democratic ways of life will ever be theirs, to foster and develop, as the years come and go.

## WHAT YOU CAN DO

Every young person probably asks, at some time or another, the question: “What opportunities are there to help my family, my neighbours and my country?” The answer is not always easy to give in a few words, but here are some rules which, if observed, will help to improve your sense of Good Citizenship:

### 1. *Citizenship in the Home:*

- (a) Keep yourself as clean and tidy as possible.  
Do not be late for meals.

## SOME ADVICE FOR THE JUNIOR CITIZEN

- (b) Help your parents with the work of the Home (washing dishes, setting and clearing the table, keeping the home clean).
- (c) Help to look after young children and old people who may be living in your home.
- (d) Do not disturb others who may be busy.
- (e) Be cheerful and helpful at all times.
- (f) Be honest and reliable.

### 2. *Citizenship in School or College :*

- (a) Be punctual, orderly, trustworthy and friendly.
- (b) Take part in all worthy projects organised by your teachers.
- (c) Help to maintain the good name of your school by your own good conduct and speech wherever you find yourself.
- (d) Help younger pupils to settle down and enjoy school life.
- (e) Give your teachers every assistance you can, both in the classroom and at playtime.

### 3. *Citizenship in the Community and the State :*

- (a) Live actively and helpfully; work hard, and enjoy your leisure in wholesome recreation.
- (b) Obey the "hundred and one" rules and courtesies of daily life.
- (c) Take an interest in public affairs.
- (d) Take part in religious and cultural affairs, also in matters of Local Government.
- (e) Be friendly to people of a different race and creed.



## BRIGHTER CITIZENS

- (f) Help to free the community—your village, town, or city—from influences that weaken or degrade the life of the citizens.
- (g) When you become of age, vote at all Municipal and Parliamentary elections; regard it as a duty to exercise this vote.

## GLOSSARY OF TERMS

**Act of Parliament**, a law of the State, passed by Parliament.

**Acting in concert**, acting together.

**Administration**, the carrying on of public affairs, as performed by Ministers and the Civil Service.

**Agenda**, items of business to be considered at a meeting.

**Alderman** (England), a person elected by a Council to serve on the Council; often a prominent citizen.

**Approved School**, school run by the Home Office for young offenders.

**Bailie** (Scotland), City or Burgh magistrate.

**Ballot**, originally a ball, used for secret voting; hence the system of voting secretly by paper.

**Bill**, a proposed law prepared for presentation to Parliament.

**Black Rod**, official and messenger of the House of Lords.

**Budget**, the Chancellor of the Exchequer's annual statement of the country's finances, containing an estimate of the country's probable expenditure and income for the coming year.

**Cabinet**, committee of chief members of the Government, presided over by the Prime Minister. The Cabinet shares responsibility for State policy and administration.

**Canvass**, to ask support and votes of electors.

**Charter**, a formal and written declaration of aims and purposes.

**Civil**, in government, as opposed to military; in law, as opposed to criminal.

**Civil Service**, the body of officials employed by the State who concern themselves with all branches of administration.

**Coalition**, a combination of different political parties who unite to form a Government.

**Colony**, possessions overseas governed by officials under the authority of the British Parliament. Many C. have a large measure of self-government.

**Committee**, a body of persons appointed to perform certain duties.

**Commonwealth**, the term used to describe the United Kingdom and the Dominions.

**Competent business**, permissible business.

**Condominium**, a region jointly owned and administered by more than one State.

**Constituency**, the body of voters of any particular area which sends a representative to Parliament.

**Constitution**, the principles of government and form of a state according to which the state is governed.

**Convener**, person appointed to summon the meeting of a committee.

**Corporal punishment**, physical punishment.

**Corporation**, body authorised to act as an individual. For example, a Town Council is a Corporation.

**County Council**, the elected governing and administrative body of a county.

**Court of Session**, the supreme Civil Court of Scotland. Founded in 1532.

**Criminal Court**, a court of law which tries and convicts an offender who has broken a law.

**Dean of Guild**, a town official in Scotland, appointed to sanction building operations within the town.

## BRIGHTER CITIZENS

**Default**, failure to meet an obligation.

**Delegate**, person empowered to represent a body at a conference.

**Democracy**, the rule of the people; the name given to a state where the government is chosen by the citizens by means of elections.

**Destitute**, commonly used of persons without food and lodging.

**Dictatorship**, rule by one person, or a small number of persons, whose power is absolute and final.

**Diplomacy**, the art of conducting negotiations between nations, calling for the highest skill.

**Dissolution**, the end and break-up of Parliament previous to a General Election.

**Division**, the ascertainment of an opinion in the House of Commons by means of voting.

**Dock**, enclosure in a court in which the accused is placed during his trial.

**Dominion**, the name given to each of the self-governing countries of the British Commonwealth of Nations.

**Education Committee**, committee of county councils and large city councils which administers all matters relating to Education in the County or City.

**Executive**, the body of Ministers who direct the various departments of Government.

**Find Caution**, to deposit money as a security for good conduct.

**Franchise**, freedom; usually applied to the right to vote in an election.

**Gavel**, chairman's hammer to draw a meeting to attention.

**General Election**, an election of a new Parliament, which takes place in all constituencies of the United Kingdom at the same time.

**Hansard**, the record of the proceedings and debates in the British Parliament, first published by a printer called Hansard.

**Honorary** (Secretary, etc.), appointed by way of honour; unpaid.

**Illiterate**, unable to read.

**Immunisation**, rendering exempt from danger of infection.

**Income Tax**, a tax paid by all persons whose income exceeds a certain amount.

**Jury**, a body of persons sworn to render a verdict in a court of justice.

**Juvenile Delinquent**, young person guilty of an offence or misdeed.

**Legislature**, an assembly vested with the power of making laws: in the United Kingdom, the Houses of Parliament.

**Lord Chancellor**, the Chairman of the House of Lords; the chief law officer of the Crown.

**Mace**, a staff or symbol of office.

**Magistrate**, a public officer of a local authority, with power to try minor offences.

**Mayor** (England), chief citizen of a town or city.

**Motion**, a proposal in Parliament, or other assembly, for action to be taken.

**Municipal**, relating to the government of a city or town.

**National Exchequer** (Treasury), the State department which controls the national finances.

**Nomination**, the act of bringing forward a person's name with a view to his election to office.

**Notice of Motion**, intimation of the intention to bring forward a proposal in an assembly.

## GLOSSARY OF TERMS

**Office-bearer**, one who holds office.  
**Opposition**, that party (or parties) in Parliament which is opposed to the Government of the day.

**Order Paper**, paper on which questions are written for discussion in Parliament.

**Plead**, maintain a cause in court; to make answer to a charge.

**Polling Clerk**, officer assisting Presiding Officer at a Polling Station.

**Polling Day**, day on which electors cast their votes.

**Polling Station**, place where voting by ballot takes place on Election days.

**Presiding Officer**, official in charge of voting at a Polling Station.

**Probation Officer**, social worker associated with a police court, who helps offenders put on probation.

**Proof**, evidence in a lawsuit.

**Prorogation**, the adjournment of Parliament from one session to another.

**Pros and Cons**, arguments "For" and "Against."

**Prosecution**, carrying on legal proceedings against a party; party who takes legal proceedings.

**Provost**, the chief citizen and magistrate of a city or town in Scotland.

**Question**, a subject for discussion in Parliament.

**Quorum**, fixed number of members of any body whose presence is necessary for the valid transaction of business.

**Rates**, local taxes levied to defray expenses of lighting, education, health, and other services.

**Remit back from Council**, a matter returned from a council to a committee for further consideration.

**Resignation**, giving up of an office.

**Retire by Rotation**, to withdraw in succession after a certain period of office.

**Returned Unopposed**, elected without opposition.

**Returning Officer**, person in charge of a constituency during an Election, who ensures the Election is properly conducted.

**Revenue**, the annual yield of taxes, duties, etc., which the State collects for public use.

**Roll**, list of cases coming before a court.

**St Andrew's House**, centre of Scottish Government Departments in Edinburgh.

**Scottish Grand Committee**, Committee of the House of Commons which considers purely Scottish affairs.

**Serjeant-at-arms**, official and messenger of the House of Commons.

**Sheriff**, the chief officer of a shire, who judges offences (Scotland).

**Speaker**, member chosen by the House of Commons to preside at meetings of the Commons.

**Spoiled Paper**, a voting paper which has not first been sealed or which does not clearly indicate the candidate for whom the vote is intended.

**Statute Book**, book containing the statutes or laws of the State.

**Teller**, one who counts votes in a Division.

**Town Chamberlain**, council officer who attends to the assessment and collection of rates.

**Town Clerk**, council officer, usually a lawyer, who advises the council on all legal matters.

**Verdict**, decision by a jury or a judge.

**Voting by Roll Call**, calling over a list of persons to ascertain their wishes.



## BRIGHTER CITIZENS

**Whip**, member of a political party in Parliament whose duty it is to secure attendance of members of the party on the occasion of an important Division.

**Whitehall**, district of London where the chief State Departments are situated.

**Woolsack**, seat of the Lord Chancellor, in the House of Lords, made of a large square cushion of wool.

